1954
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

GOVERNOR OF
AMERICAN SAMOA
TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
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INTRODUCTION

UNITED STATES interest in the islands of the Samoan group dates from the report made by Capt. John Wilkes, of the United States exploring expedition in 1842, although the first agreement reached between the Samoan people and a representative of the United States was not made until Commander Richard Meade visited the islands in 1872. After two further “friendship and commerce” agreements had been made, the United States entered into a convention on December 2, 1899, dividing control of the islands between Germany and the United States. The President placed the islands under naval control February 19, 1900, 3 days after Congress ratified the treaty. For 51 years the territory was administered by the Department of the Navy. On July 1, 1951, the President, by Executive Order 10264, placed American Samoa under the administrative control of the Department of the Interior.

American Samoa is composed of 7 islands divided into 3 groups. Tutuila and the adjacent island, Anu’a, are the center of all governmental activities. The Manu’a group, some 80 miles to the east, is the source of the major part of the entire export copra production. Rose and Swains Islands are both coral atolls, Rose being uninhabited and Swains being the home of some 100 persons of Samoan and Tokelauan extraction.

The islands of Tutuila and Manu’a are volcanic in origin, extremely mountainous, covered with dense tropical vegetation, and surrounded by fringing coral reefs. Steep-sided valleys and narrow coastal plains provide the only area suitable for agriculture. Through their practice of shifting civilization the Samoans have been able to utilize the pre-
The Samoan economy is essentially agrarian. Even under primitive forms of cultivation the land formerly was sufficient to supply the population without difficulty; however, with the introduction of western medical controls, the population of American Samoa has become one of the world’s most rapidly increasing and the need for new methods, new crops, and new industries is becoming increasingly pressing. During the decade 1940-50 the population increased 46.7 percent. The population at the present time is estimated to be about 20,500 and the percentage of women of child-bearing age is continually increasing.

Following the transfer of the administration of American Samoa from the U.S. Navy to Interior on July 1, 1951, the largest single problem has been the lack of political stability caused by the rapid changes in succession of key government officials including the office of the Governor. The natural unrest among the Samoans resulting from these changes diverted, to some extent, Samoan energies from the pressing economic difficulties with which they should be concerned.

On November 12, 1953, Richard Barrett Lowe was inaugurated as Governor, having been appointed in Washington on October 1. The months following have seen the gradual return of political stability. Positive steps have been taken to stabilize the island economy by the formulation of a program of industrial incentives designed to encourage industry to settle in American Samoa and by placing increasing emphasis on the development of indigenous crafts and agriculture. The prospects for air transportation between Honolulu and American Samoa, and between Western Samoa and American Samoa are encouraging.

Politically important steps have been taken to place greater responsibilities on local government officials. A Constitutional Committee consisting primarily of Samoans has been given the task of developing a basic law which will be compatible with the needs and desires of the Samoan people in accordance with the principles of American democracy. It is expected that the working of this committee will bring it in contact with the “grass roots” in assessing Samoan public opinion and ideas on the contents of the constitution. A coordinated program of governmental field activities, working closely with Samoan officials is bringing the government to the village level and making it more realistic and productive for the people of the territory. By attempting to reduce governmental services to their most basic components the administration is making it possible for the Samoan people to understand and learn what is required for local self-government, so that in time this objective may be fully achieved.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

In its sessions throughout this year the Third Legislature has made considerable progress toward attaining its objective of becoming a responsible and independent territorial law-making body. Although the months from July to October 1953 were politically difficult, due mostly to the lack of an appointed Governor, the Legislature remained in support of the Acting Governor and provided to some degree a stabilizing influence within the community. Upon the arrival of Gov. Richard Barrett Lowe, a new approach toward cooperating with the Legislature was made manifest. The Governor in his opening addresses to the sessions indicated clearly the program of his administration and his willingness to relinquish appropriate authority to capable hands as soon as they were ready to assume the responsibility. The appointment of a legislative liaison officer to assist in matters of administration, coupled with the attendance of the District Governors, who are the executive heads of the Samoan local government, assisted in raising the level of debate in the legislature from problems of a petty or local nature to those which concerned policy and the Territory as a whole. While there is as yet much room for further advance, the second session of the Third Legislature was characterized by cooperation within itself and with the executive branch and by solid progress toward becoming an alert and effective law-making body ready to assume further responsibility.

The Legislature (Fono) convened in session on five separate occasions during the year. The sessions extended over a period of 23 days, of which 17 were regular or customary sessions, and 6 were special sessions for the purpose of considering matters of special importance.

The Fono of American Samoa is composed of two Houses. The House of Senate is comprised of 15 titled members elected in accordance with Samoan customs. The House of Representatives consists of 18 members who are elected by universal suffrage in secret ballot.

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives are elected by vote of the respective Houses. The President of the Senate, Hon. M. T. Tuisaosopo, presided over all the regular and special sessions of the Senate, while the Hon. S. P. Aumaesalogo, Speaker of the House of Representatives, presided over all the regular and special sessions of the House of Representatives.
All sessions were conducted in the Samoan language and all records, reports, and resolutions are translated into English.

The sum of $13,405.72 was expended for salaries of legislative members, officers, office staff, and contractual services during the year.

October 8, 1953—Special Session (1 day): At the request of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and upon the advice of members of both Houses, the Acting Governor authorized the Legislature to convene for the specified purpose of discussing recent political developments relative to the selection of a new Governor for this Territory, and recommending an appropriate course of action, based on full and complete information, to preserve stability and harmony with this Territory. In addition, the special session was authorized to consider the rights of alien nationals with regard to participation in the political life of American Samoa.

November 26, 1953—Special Session (1 day): Convened for the specific purpose of meeting with the Chief Executive of American Samoa and the distinguished representatives of the United States Government who were visiting the territory at that time. The Legislature also considered local recruitment of regular and reserve personnel for the Armed Forces of the United States.

January 12-26, 1954—Convened to discuss and consider matters of importance to the general public as recommended by the various counties of American Samoa through their respective representatives; and passed 20 resolutions, which were directed to the Governor, on matters concerning legislation and administrative policies, and the establishment of a Constitutional Committee to draft a Territorial Constitution for the Government of American Samoa; and a training program for legislators of the Fourth Legislature.

March 29-27, 1954—Regular Session (5 days): Convened to receive, discuss, and approve the comments of the Governor on the 20 resolutions of the January session, 1954. In addition, the Legislature passed and forwarded a Resolution of Appreciation to the Navy Department for considering the provision of an opportunity for the young men of American Samoa to enlist locally in the United States Navy.

June 28-July 1, 1954—Regular Session (4 days): Convened to study the Government budgetary estimates for the fiscal year 1956, to discuss means of safeguarding the people of this territory from exploitation while industrial incentives are being offered to assist in the development of the territorial economy, and to create a special committee of the Fono to advise the Governor on these respects. Three members were appointed from each House to serve on a special committee to study and evaluate the results of the 2-year trial period of the Third Legislature and the Council of Paramount Chiefs, and to formulate plans and procedures for the election of the Fourth Legislature of American Samoa.

The Legislature also passed four resolutions of appreciation and commendation, and commended Gov. Richard Barrett Lowe for: His diligent efforts in safeguarding the rights and properties of the Samoan people while the economic development of the Territory was being fostered; his policy of keeping the people of the Territory fully informed on all matters, and particularly on developments which might tend to threaten the Samoan ways of life; the establishment of long-range programs for the Government of American Samoa to achieve a state of stability hitherto unattained because of the short tenure of office of past chief executives.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

The judicial power exercisable in American Samoa is vested in the high court and the district courts, there being three district courts for the islands of Tutuila, Aunu'u, and Swains, and two for the Mau'ai group. The high court has jurisdiction throughout the Territory. It has an appellate, a trial, and a probate division. Appeals may be taken from the trial and probate divisions of the High court and from the district courts to the appellate division of the high court.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1954, a total of 486 persons were tried on criminal charges. Of these 343 were convicted and 143 acquitted. Of those convicted, 20 were sent to jail and the remainder fined. Of those fined, 33 worked out their fines by doing labor for the public benefit in their villages under the direction of the pulenu'u or the county chief. During the year review the courts disposed of 803 civil cases.

It is the practice to dispose of criminal cases with as much promptness after filing as the circumstances permit, due consideration being given to the constitutional rights of the defendant and to his rights guaranteed by the American Samoa Bill of Rights.

Charges of felony are prosecuted by the Attorney General. If there be a plea of guilty to a charge of felony, the Government is nevertheless normally required to prove a prima facie case in order to avoid the possibility of the defendant's having pleaded guilty through mistake. In cases of a plea of guilty to a misdemeanor, the court must be satisfied that the defendant has had a clear understanding of the charge and that his plea is voluntarily made. If in any case it should appear to the court after a plea of guilty that there may be reasonable doubt as to the actual guilt of the defendant, he is invariably permitted to withdraw his plea and substitute a plea of not guilty.
in order to avoid a possible miscarriage of justice.

Samoan judges participate in the decision of all cases in American Samoa except those heard in the probate division of the high court in the first instance.

The fundamental human rights of the Samoan people are guaranteed not only by the American Samoan Bill of Rights but also by the Constitution of the United States. The courts are ever alert to protect these rights of the people, and the public defender is available for legal assistance.

The legislation growing out of the recommendations of Judge Albert B. Maris of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, who made a survey of the court system of American Samoa in the spring of 1952, has now been in effect for approximately a year and a half. This legislation abolished the village courts and transferred their jurisdiction to the district courts. It established an appellate division, a trial division, and a probate division of the high court and transferred much of the jurisdiction of the district courts to the trial division of the high court. It provided for appeals from the district courts and the trial and probate divisions of the high court to the appellate division of the high court. Under the new system the former district judges, who are now associate judges of the high court, are designated from time to time by the chief judge to sit in the district courts. This permits a rotation of Samoan judges in these courts, and is desirable because of the extended family system in American Samoa. The experience of a year and a half with the legislation resulting from Judge Maris' recommendations has clearly demonstrated its usefulness. It has improved the administration of justice in these islands.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Department of Finance**

This department, formerly a segment of the Department of Administration under the Comptroller, was reestablished as a line function. The department now consists of the Office of Director, and Divisions of Accounts, Customs and Revenue, General Supply, and Medical Supply. The Director, a United States trained contract employee, is aided by a Samoan Assistant Director and four other clerically trained local employees.

The wartime reserve in Treasury bonds in the sum of $358,800 continued to be held in reserve for payment of Navy stock transferred July 1, 1951. However, at the beginning of the year, steps were taken to obtain a clarification of the status of this obligation. During the year, the Government operated on a direct appropriation of $116,000 and a grant-in-aid of $1,434,000 supplemented by local revenue of $524,969.95. Net obligations amount to $1,627,324.67, and total expenditures for operations and maintenance amounted to $1,491,373.21, and construction projects were $49,862.03. More complete financial data may be found elsewhere in this report.

The Territory's primary taxable export, copra, varied in price throughout the year. However, increased production of copra, aided by the increase in family allotments from Samoan members of the Armed Forces, assisted materially in increasing revenue for this fiscal year.

The cannery has been in operation for one-third of the past year and has not yet been functioning for a sufficient length of time to be noticeably felt. However, a 2-percent revenue on the export of its products brought in $2,185 in revenue, exclusive of income from leasing of cannery property.

**Accounts Division.**—This division maintains the official accounts of the Government and is responsible for the preaudit of disbursement documents, the disbursing of appropriated and general funds, and for the preparation of periodic financial statements and reports. During the year, a locally trained Samoan accountant was promoted to the head of this division which includes the supervision of nine Samoan account clerks.

**Customs and Revenue Division.**—The Customs and Revenue Division of the Department of Finance is staffed entirely by local island personnel and has the responsibility for collecting all revenues due the Government of American Samoa. In the last fiscal year, July 1, 1953, to June 30, 1954, the Customs and Revenue Division collected $524,969.95 in revenue, with $391,708.65 derived from duties on imports. The value of the 1954 imports is listed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value in dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$568,303.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia and New Zealand</td>
<td>364,139.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>52,349.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
<td>6,137.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>11,509.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Indies</td>
<td>112.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>593,543.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Export values for the fiscal year 1954 are tabulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copra, sun-dried</td>
<td>$363,257.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauhala floor mats</td>
<td>45,757.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mats (varied sizes)</td>
<td>25,855.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood crafts and carvings</td>
<td>1,063.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other curios</td>
<td>2,654.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish (canned tuna)</td>
<td>107,790.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish meal</td>
<td>1,586.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>546,237.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both imports and exports for the year have shown a decided increase in volume over the previous fiscal year.

This division is also responsible for the enforcement of all customs regulations and the clearance of all ships entering or departing American Samoa. During the year 179 were entered and 176 were cleared for departure.

Supply Division.—This division consists of the chief, supply division, who is a locally trained Samoan, and 22 other career employees. It has the responsibility of procuring all equipment, supplies, and materials for the Government and for the maintenance of 8 warehouses, 1 lumber yard, cold storage facilities, and a fuel tank farm consisting of 11 storage tanks (177,000 barrels capacity) and 4 pumping houses as well as the oil dock area. The division also operates a shipping and receiving warehouse which handles the packing, crating, and shipping of household effects of contract employees. Approximately 19,000 gallons of gasoline and 58,000 gallons of diesel oil per month are dispensed to the Government and private enterprises. For servicing heavy equipment and outlying areas, three fuel tank trucks are maintained.

Plans are being developed to rearrange the fuel tank farm to provide storage facilities for aviation gasoline and to provide larger storage facilities for motor gasoline as well as for diesel fuel.

During the month of June, a fuel tanker delivered 206,000 gallons of motor gasoline and 500,000 gallons of diesel. The cost of this shipment amounted to $111,182.97.

The division is charged with the disposal of all surveyed property. Disposal of surveyed property is handled in accordance with procedures prescribed by the regulation of the General Services Administration.

During the year 1,777 purchase requisitions with a total value of $498,497.33 were processed. This includes purchases made through the General Services Administration in San Francisco and Washington as well as purchases from New Zealand.

Fresh and canned meat are purchased from New Zealand due to the fact that there is no freezer space available on American freighters operating to and from these islands. This results in a considerable saving to the Government as prices for these commodities are considerably lower than in the United States. Since the arrival of the Japanese fishing fleet in American Samoa, the Government discontinued buying fish from New Zealand. The reestablishment of stock levels has been completed. However, as of June 30, 1954, there still remains an inventory valued at $788,254.57. The inventory does, however, reflect a considerable quantity of stores transferred from the Navy. A large number of these items are not required for civilian operations and many of them have already deteriorated beyond use. Disposal by sale of these excess or surplus items to local enterprises was attempted and the results were negligible. Surplus disposal agencies in the continental United States were also contacted and it does not seem that there is hope of shipping these items to the United States for the reason that Samoa is remote from the mainland; the cost of freight alone would raise the price of items involved higher than the current market price in the United States.

A total of 20,411 stub requisitions were processed during the year at a value of $788,254.57.

Medical Supply Division.—The Medical Supply Officer, a stateside contract employee, is assisted by 4 indigenous employees. The division is housed in two large warehouses and provides standard medical supplies and equipment for departments of the Government, provides facilities for salvage and repair of medical equipment, furnishes logistic data relative to medical supplies and equipment, and handles the ordering, recording, storing, packing and care of all material under its cognizance.

During the year 1954, purchase orders were handled, including direct issues, with a value of $19,838.18 for the former and $14,264.33 for the latter.

The June 30, 1954, inventory revealed a stock value at $136,979.90, reflecting price adjustments and formal surveys on obsolete and unfit supplies and materials, a substantial reduction from the previous year's $168,739.98. The inventory still contains a large amount of stock transferred from Navy, the majority of which is listed on stock cards at four times the original cost.

A full adjustment will be completed during the forthcoming year. A total of 1,643 stub requisitions were processed during the year, having a total value of $58,439.08.

Budget Office.—Under the basic organizational concept of a staff-line organization, the Office of Comptroller was disestablished and
the responsibilities transferred to the budget office of the Executive branch as a staff function.

The budget officer coordinates the submission of departmental budgets, provides analytical service to the secretary, and reviews and drafts certain administrative policies; maintains and revises organization charts and the organization manual. This included the design and maintenance of a forms control system as well as the conduct of work simplification studies. The budget officer also aids in the preparation of regular and special reports of all types in collaboration with other divisions and conducts evaluation of administrative practices, procedures, and methods.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The management services officer is responsible for the following public services and agencies:

Supervision of operations of Government vessel Manu'a Tele and agent for privately owned motor vessel Samoa; all Government-owned busses; proprietary interests, viz., laundry, print shop, and hotel; small boats; and copra fund.

Administration and programing for central control and utilization of nonexpendable property; inventory procedures and methods for annual review of inventories on nonexpendable property; housing assignments and rentals of housing; leasing of Government land and buildings; control of space assignment and use; and chairman of Government-sponsored Co-op Board. Three subdivisions of this department are managed by locally trained Samoans.

Land Transportation

Land transportation, consisting of 8 busses and 1 truck, maintains a 7-day weekly schedule over all main and secondary roads, bringing a service to almost all villages with the exception of a few on the north coast. Four of these busses (United States surplus) which arrived late in the fiscal year, are of modern design, spacious and weatherproof, and have added greatly to the comfort of the traveling public, particularly school children. Passenger service increased by approximately 6,000 fares over the last fiscal year, with additional revenue of $5,293.85 over last year.

Marine Transportation

Marine transportation is provided by the former minesweeper Manu'a Tele, the privately owned M. V. Samoa for which this Government is agent, two 50-foot launches, 1 Seabee-type launch, and a small cabin cruiser. The Manu'a Tele is on charter from the people of the Manu'a group. She is used as a direct link between Tutuila and the airline at Canton Island for transporting visiting officials, contract employees, and Samoans en route to and from Honolulu and the United States. This saves much expense in that the only alternative route is via Apia and Fiji. She is chartered every 3 months by the Government of Western Samoa for a Tokelau trip, and is used for many charter trips by the different religious groups here, but in the main is used to facilitate governmental passenger and freight service.

Small boat operations were assigned this department in September 1953. The 50-foot motorboats have been used daily for the transport of some hundred students across the bay to schools in that area; to assist in the mooring of overseas vessels; and to carry out various projects for the Public Works Department, but chiefly to maintain a weekly contact with the villages on the north coast, bringing in copra, passengers, freight, sick or injured persons, and taking out building materials and various visiting officials from the Departments of Education, Health, Agriculture, and Public Works. The smaller launch and cabin cruiser are used for general utility purposes within the harbor, as a spare vessel during repairs to others, and can be rented by fishing parties.

Laundry

The laundry is operated by indigenous employees, has given good service to Government employees and Samoans at a reasonable rate, and has now been placed on a better business basis by the introduction of a nominal charge on all hospital laundry which constitutes 90 percent of the service.

Print Shop

This unit carries out practically all Government printing and stationery requirements, as well as providing private printing needs for merchants, offices, and the general public. It employs three Samoan personnel and the profit for the year was $683.30.

Hotel

The Rainmaker Hotel has given excellent service to all transient and local people during the past year. With the advent of the cannery, recruiting team from Honolulu, Samoan Airline officials, visiting plane crews, and stateside visitors, there has been a large increase in guests during the last few months.
Cannery

The Van Camp Sea Food Co. of California leased the cannery, which has been on a standby basis in this department previously, from the Government on December 3. The lease provides for a 1-year trial period during which the prime objective is to ascertain the quantity and quality of commercial fish caught for canning purposes in these waters and to ascertain the adaptability of Samoan labor. From February through July 1, 1954, approximately 10,000 cases of fish have been processed, representing 204 tons of fish. Three hundred and forty-two tons of frozen fish were transported to the United States via a mother ship. The cannery employs 160 Samoans (mostly part time) at present and plans to increase the personnel to approximately 200. This firm has invested approximately $50,000 in equipment and improvements in the cannery.

Copra Fund

The copra fund purchased 1,895 tons of copra during the year and exported 1,803 tons for an average of $194 per ton. This was an increase of $36.50 per ton over last year's selling price. However, in late June the purchasing price to producers was lowered to 5 cents per pound from 6 1/2 cents, due to decline in market. The purchasing price had increased 1 cent per pound during the year. Copra dividend checks in the amount of $52,545.35 were distributed to some 3,505 individuals in June.

Property Management

This division completed physical inventories on all Government equipment in the various departments. The subsidiary records are balanced monthly to the general ledger for the purpose of maintaining proper controls. New plant account classification and descriptive index cards were prepared. Surveys on unserviceable supplies and equipment were made and proper disposal was carried out. The replacement program of heavy equipment and motor vehicles has been partially completed, with many items being secured from surplus. Capital equipment, with a value of over $77,000, was purchased and assigned to various departments.

PERSONNEL DIVISION

This year saw the application of the classification system to some of the pay inequities which existed. The largest group of employees affected were the medical practitioners and the account clerks. The classification series in both cases were adjusted. Classification work went forward steadily all year with the result that a total of 181 classification actions were taken.

The promotion-from-within policy has been actively used during the year. One hundred and sixty-eight positions were filled by promoting lower grade employees to those positions. This, and other personnel transactions, has resulted in a total of 793 personnel actions being taken. This total includes 201 annual appointment actions for teachers in the education department of which 34 appointments were for new personnel.

During the year the employee count rose from 872 in July 1953 to 1001 in June, of which 38 were on leave without pay from public works projects which did not require their services at the time. This increase was almost entirely shown in the Public Works Department for work on special projects such as the main dock repair, the Pago Catchment Basin development, and the Fagasa dock project. The peak for the year was reached in April.

In January, the Van Camp Cannery Co. sent a small stateside group to activate the cannery which it had leased from the Government. This group did not include a personnelist, nor did they have anyone acquainted with Samoan people. This office was asked to assist in recruiting their initial crew. A total of 872 applications were accepted and screened. Of this number 86 persons were placed. These 56 employees constituted their first operating group and included an administrative assistant who assumed the personnel function in March, at which point the services of the personnel office were no longer required.

The Government went forward in its plan of reducing the number of stateside employees. The stateside employees in the Agriculture Department was reduced by two, one of which was replaced by a Samoan. An encouraging factor was the reemployment of 13 non-Federal, and 1 Federal, stateside employees during the year. Thus the experience gained in Samoa during their first term can be used in making a more important contribution in subsequent service. During the year, it was found possible to employ five stateside persons who were already in Samoa, instead of recruiting such persons from the United States, with the high cost for travel which this entails. One additional technical employee was secured from Fiji. In five cases the Government employs both the husband and wife of a family, thereby reducing by five the number of quarters required.
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

This division operates and maintains all Government-owned radio and electronics equipment. This includes the point-to-point and ship-to-shore radio telegraph circuits connecting American Samoa with relay and terminal stations in Hawaii, Fiji, and Western Samoa. Without additional cost, this division greatly expanded its services to the Government and the public. After more than 2 years of limited operation, a continuous, 24-hour communication operation was established.

A complete reorganization of the communications division made possible the elimination of two positions which required the services of United States personnel. Qualified indigenous employees were promoted to responsible positions.

The division supplemented existing schedules with other Government stations in American Samoa and with concurring administrations in Fiji, Hawaii, and Western Samoa. Continuous watches are now maintained on ship-to-shore circuits, including all international distress channels. In addition, continuous watches were established for emergency traffic from stations in Manu'a and Swains Island, and from Government vessels in the interisland service.

The general frequency assignments to American Samoa are limited, but no real difficulty has been encountered in day and night communication over established telegraph circuits. The frequency shortage is more evident within the territory where the land-line telephone service is limited to the bay area. To offer better intraisland telephone service, plans have been formulated for an automatic radio link that would use the very high frequencies. Installation would be at strategic points for service to the remote, but populated, areas.

The major fiscal expenditures of the division are for the operation and development of Tutuila Radio proper. However, considerable effort has been devoted to a general improvement of remote units within American Samoa. A telegraph station was installed at Tau, Manu’a, to provide more reliable service to the three major out-stations at Ta‘o, Ofu, and Swains to prevent loss of communication in the event of equipment failure. Indigenous personnel are assigned to operate and maintain the division’s remote functions.

Plans have been completed for the installation of an air-to-ground radio station at Tafuna Airport. This new station will provide communication necessary for the arrival and departure of aircraft using the Tafuna Airport. After a study of equipment usage at the main transmitter plant, it was found that the air-radio installation can be accomplished without additional cost to the Government.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works continued to expand its activities during the year, mainly in the field of special projects and contractual services rendered to other departments and private concerns. The total for all special projects during fiscal year 1954 was $198,631.80, an increase of $33,517.52 over fiscal year 1953. The Department’s total budget of fiscal year 1954 was $325,384.19, which was $49,789.90 less than that of fiscal year 1953. During the first quarter of fiscal year 1954, a saving of $8,610.07 was realized from all divisions of the Department.

These funds, plus an additional $5,150 requested from the Government and approved by the Acting Governor, were then used for a major overhaul of the SRU powerplant.

The Department undertook a continued program of repairs and maintenance to all Government-owned buildings. Very little exterior painting was done during the year. A program of remodeling and alteration of quarters for new personnel, with complete interior painting, was carried out. Three houses were condemned as unfit for habitation and the material salvaged for use elsewhere. Difficulties were encountered on all buildings that had composition paper roofs, such as the hospital, the Samoan nurses’ quarters, the high-school buildings, the recreation hall, and supply department. A continued program of patching with roofing paper and asphalt was conducted.

Refrigeration

A program of reconstruction to the refrigeration plant building was carried out during the year. Main roof girders had to be replaced and rooms 1, 4, and 9 were set into operation to assist the Van Camp facility will provide a primary and secondary air-ground telephone service as well as field-approach communication. Installation is contemplated for early fiscal 1955.

Construction of composite studio facilities for the Government-owned standard broadcast station was accomplished without additional cost. Installation of a new antenna system to provide extended coverage was completed. The broadcast station, operated by the Office of Information and Adult Education, was improved and maintained by this division for negligible cost during the year.

A total of 9,646 Government and paid messages, representing 289,424 words, was sent and received during the year. Of this number, 6,205 messages, representing 119,661 words, was commercial traffic. The division realized $8,352.35 in revenue for private correspondence.
See Food Packing Co. in additional cold-storage space for their fish and ice storage.

**Roads**

A program of rebuilding, widening, ditching, coral surfacing, and installation of proper size drains was carried out during the year at the eastern district for a distance of 8 miles from Fagaitua to Aloa. Eight large concrete culverts were installed to help take care of the torrential rain floods. In Pago Pago Valley, a new coral surface road was built from the Pago-Fagasa road, into the Pago Valley area, where the new catchment basin will be located at a distance of 8,600 feet. In Fagasa, a new coral surface road was built from the village junction to the new Fagasa pier, a distance of 4,200 feet. Two large concrete culverts were also built to help alleviate the flood water during the rainy seasons. A continued program of grading and keeping the roads of the western district in good repair was also carried out during the year.

**Boat Channels**

A north shore development project amounting to $8,500 was started in November 1953, with a survey of north shore ports of the Island of Tutuila. Those to be worked were Masefau, Afono, Vatia, Fagasa, Asu, Old Aloaau, Pagamoso, Fagalii', and Poloa. The Government’s plan was to have a boat at Fagasa and let it run east and west to pick up sick patients and copra and return to Fagasa. There the Government would supply a bus to bring over all the passengers and copra to Pago Pago. All of the above-mentioned ports (except Masefau) boat channels were repaired by blasting with dynamite to widen the passage for easy launching of the village long boats. This job was completed in June 1954.

**Main Dock Reconstruction**

The total amount of funds allotted to this project was $400,000. The pier is being constructed of concrete, using 16-inch concrete piles. At the close of the fiscal year 35 percent of the concrete piles were completed and construction of the first 100 feet was in progress.

**Water System**

During fiscal year 1954, from July 1 to 13, a water-ration period was applied to all residents of Fagatogo and Utulei. Since then the reservoirs have had sufficient flow to meet the needs of the consumers.

**Electrification**

The SRU power plant has not had an engine overhaul for 3 years; hence, in October 1953, the engines began to give trouble. Major overhaul work was completed, and in June 1954 the plant was again operating at 85-percent efficiency. All plant equipment has been overhauled and painted. A continued program of modernizing and installing modern electrical wiring and equipment in all Government-owned houses has been carried on. The distribution system has undergone a continued program of servicing to its power lines and transformers. Forty percent of all the transformers have undergone change of oil and repainting and have been reinstalled.

**Automotive Vehicles**

The department, with 44 vehicles, 6 new and 38 old, has continued a program of trying to keep these 38 overage vehicles on the road to give service to all other departments of the Government. The Public Works Department is charged with the maintenance and repair of these old vehicles. These vehicles range from 10 to 15 years of age and are expected to carry on for a few more years. Maintenance costs are high.

**Tank Farm Fuel Oil and Gasoline Facilities**

The Government has 6 steel tanks and 5 underground concrete tanks with a total of 20,000 lineal feet of steel pipe to maintain. In addition, it also has 16 electric motors and pumps to maintain and keep in good operating condition. Eighty-five percent of the oil and fuel lines are underground and economically are difficult to maintain.
Tafuna Airfield

The present airfield, 450 feet wide and 6,000 feet long, is coral based with grass that has to be mowed once each month. The Public Works Department has been able to keep this field under good repair and properly mowed for immediate use. During the past year 3 large DC-6 planes landed and took off from this airport. Comments on the field have been favorable. Future plans call for Samoan Airlines to start using this field during fiscal year 1955. A plan to maintain a crew of 2 men to look after the airport on a permanent basis will start during fiscal year 1955.

Other Projects

The Public Works Department has made a complete survey and soundings of Faleasao Bay in Manu'a with plans to construct a pier 25 feet wide by 100 feet long. This, of course, will be able to handle all cargo incoming and outgoing via the M. V. Samoa, which will be able to berth here in 12 feet to 15 feet of water. A 40-foot motor launch will be berthed here for use when the Maka'a Tele is used on this run. Construction on the above project is expected to start during fiscal year 1955.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Organization

With the change of administration being almost simultaneous with the beginning of the fiscal year, there was a major reorganization of the department. There are three main divisions in this new organization, namely, administration, hospital, and field operations. The hospital administrator was given the title of administrative officer, whose functions covered not only the administration of the hospital but also the administration of all areas of the Department of Public Health related to nonprofessional personnel and fiscal and operational control. The office of Director of Nursing was declared vacant and the offices of Superintendent of Hospital Nursing and Superintendent of Public Health Nursing were established. This brought about a change in function in that instead of the Director of Nursing having charge of all nursing functions of the department, the responsibilities were divided so that the Superintendent of Hospital Nursing is responsible for hospital nursing services and the School of Nursing, whereas the Superintendent of Public Health Nursing is responsible for all Public Health nursing, including the village nurses and nursing related to preventive medicine.

There was a change in that the Medical Supply Division was placed in charge of a special officer and the entire function was transferred to the Department of Finance.

A further major change was the establishment of a small leprosarium in the Tafuna area and the transfer of all the American Samoa patients from Makogai, Fiji, to Tutuila.

Health Problems

The major health problems in American Samoa are in the field of preventive medicine. The control of tuberculosis, typhoid fever, malnutrition and filariasis, if and when properly effected, will greatly reduce the number of patients that need to be hospitalized, and consequently reduce expenses.

Report by Services—Medical Service.—There were 774 admissions, 775 discharges, and 15 deaths during the fiscal year. There were 53 cases of typhoid fever with 1 death. The chief causes of death were heart disease (7), liver disease (8), and senility (2).

Pediatric Service.—There were 671 admissions, 710 dismissals, and 17 deaths. There were 113 cases of typhoid fever, which was 17.8 percent of the total pediatric admissions. Of these, six died. There were two other deaths due to gastroenteritis, which may have been due to typhoid. It seems rather significant that there were two deaths due to rheumatic heart disease. The program of immunizing infants immediately following birth was initiated. It is hoped that this will reduce the infant mortality morbidity, as typhoid is supposedly one of the most easily controlled communicable diseases. There was one death due to malnutrition.

Tuberculosis Service.—There were 82 admissions and 105 dismissals and 4 deaths. The average daily patient load was 93 patients. During December, 115 patients were under observation in the hospital. The tuberculosis microfilm screening had to be discontinued in October because of breakdown in the X-ray equipment. It is expected that the new X-ray requirement will be installed within a few months and the screening program reinstated. The number screened prior to the breakdown was 3,354. Every effort is made to utilize new drugs and new advances in treatment. With these, the hospital stay of active tuberculosis cases has been shortened. During the year tuberculosis patients occupied 51 percent of all the hospital beds. The approximate cost of this service is $120,000, almost one-third of the entire Public Health budget. It is estimated that there may be he-
tween 100 and 200 cases of active tuberculosis in American Samoa. For this reason it is planned to pursue vigorously a program of tuberculin skin tests and screening with X-ray microfilming. A new building is now available for better housing of tuberculosis patients.

Leprosarium.—In early October the American Samoa patients suffering with leprosy who were at Makogai were brought home. These 25 patients, with the 6 who had been receiving treatment in an annex near the hospital, made up the initial enrollment of 31 patients at the leprosarium. Since then two new cases have been found. There were also 10 patients who were being followed in the outpatient department. This makes the total of known lepers in American Samoa 43. At present there are 20 patients in this institution.

Obstetrical Service.—There was a total of 351 obstetrical cases in the Samoan Hospital. Of these, six were delivered by classic Cesarean section. There were 44 other minor surgical procedures. Two deaths occurred in the obstetrical service. Newborn: There were 347 alive-born babies, 7 stillbirths, 2 sets of twins, premature newborns 6, and newborn deaths 2, the cause of death in each being due to atelectasis, an unpreventable complication.

Surgical Service.—There was a total number of 1,699 surgical procedures, including 351 obstetrical cases. One hundred and twenty-three major operations were performed. There was a very large number of minor procedures, many of them not hospitalized—namely, incision and drainage of abscesses, 436, and debridement and suturing of wounds, 230.

Outpatient General Clinic.—A total of 21,003 persons were seen in the outpatient department. This is a greater number than the total population of American Samoa. This, of course, indicates that many were patients returning for daily follow-up treatment. Number of outpatient visits by month: July, 1,478; August, 2,029; September, 2,110; October, 2,558; November, 2,212; December, 1,680; January, 1,624; February, 1,469; March, 1,739; April, 1,670; May, 1,189; and June, 1,290. Immunizations: Typhoid, 452; tetanus toxoid, 229; smallpox, 276; DPT, 13, making a total of 950 immunizations. In the ante-natal clinic there were 663 visits as follows: July, 79; August, 51; September, 79; October, 71; November, 33; December, 32; January, 99; February, 56; March, 72; April, 62; May, 49; and June, 51.

Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinic.—Total number of treatments for the fiscal year, 8,611. Of this, 1,164 were new treatments, which indicates that each person returned an average of three times for continuing treatment. The major diseases treated were as follows: Filariasis, 792; conjunctivitis, 649; otitis media, catarrhal, 573; otitis media, suppurative, 489; fungus, ear, 235; and furunculosis, ear, 157.

Contract Employees Clinic.—A total of 1,255 treatments were administered during the fiscal year by the chief of surgery, who conducts this outpatient clinic for Government contract employees and their dependents.

Dental Clinic.—The dental clinic is staffed by 4 Samoan dental practitioners and 1 licensed doctor of dental surgery. During the year 8,650 patients were seen and 23,609 individual items of dentistry performed. The chief of dentistry cooperated with the School of Nursing in giving a series of lectures on oral hygiene to each of the four classes of students. The dental survey of all school children of American Samoa (aged 6 to 21 years), begun in 1952, was completed (1,768 children). At present the dental section is commencing an adult dental survey. Field equipment is taken to the outlying field dispensaries. A total of $1,253.50 was collected for prosthetic and other repair costs of dentistry. These fees were all turned in to the general fund.

Public Health Nursing

This work, initiated just before the beginning of the fiscal year, was capably planned for and carried forward under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Health Nursing. In spite of difficulty in obtaining full cooperation of the village people in the mass immunization programs, persistence and repeated efforts made it finally possible to immunize the general population for DPT, typhoid and smallpox. With special emphasis on teaching village nurses by refresher courses and by visits, as well as through the use of questionnaires, the number of malnutrition cases was greatly reduced. This has significantly effected the number of cases in the pediatric department of the hospital. In this field there was also a filariasis survey conducted in which approximately 2,000 persons in a number of villages were surveyed, however; the result of only 1,267 cases have been tabulated.

The distribution and number of village nurses remains approximately the same.

Off-Island Training

Nine Samoan young men are continuing their training in the Central Medical School in Suva, Fiji; five in the medical course, three in dentistry, and one in pharmacy. During the year one graduated in dentistry and one discontinued his course and joined the United States Navy. With two of the Samoan medical practitioners having left American Samoa, and two others probably leaving within the next
year, it may be advisable to send additional young men to begin training. At present none are taking the course in clinical laboratory or X-ray. Interested young men, two for clinical laboratory and one for X-ray, are being sought. The possibility of post-graduate training in the various specialties, especially as residents for Samoan medical practitioners for 6 months in Hawaii or elsewhere, is being explored. Such training for graduate Samoan nurses may also be utilized if funds permit.

Combined Vital Statistics

Total deaths were 110, with a rate of 5.8 deaths per 1,000, as compared to 8.2 in the previous year. Of this number, 44 were infants aged 2 years and under, with a rate of 50.5 per 1,000, compared to 87.7 per 1,000 the previous year.

The 10 leading causes of death were: Adults: heart disease (19), senility (10), cerebral hemorrhage (5), cancer (4), hepatitis (4), tuberculous meningitis (3), suicide (3), hemorrhagic shock (obstetrical) (3), pulmonary tuberculosis (2), accidents (2). Children: bronchopneumonia (12), malnutrition (7) (in three of these malnutrition was a contributing factor), stillbirth (7), typhoid (6), lobar pneumonia (3), gastroenteritis (3), congenital heart disease (2), prematurity (2), aspiration pneumonia (2) and congenital atelectasis (2).

The total number of births was 739, an increase of 10 over the previous year, giving a rate of 35 per 1,000, on the basis of a total population of 20,500.

General

During the year the executive officer for health of the South Pacific Commission, who is also chairman of the research council, together with an expert on mosquito-borne diseases, spent 1 week initiating plans for a survey of filariasis and acquainting themselves with health problems in American Samoa generally. The director attended the meeting of the Research Council in Noumea, New Caledonia, in late May and early June.

Dr. Alexander M. Earle, chief of pediatrics, wrote the following articles during the year: Histoplasmin Sensitivity in American Samoa, American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; some Clinical Aspects of Typhoid Fever in Infancy, Journal of Pediatrics; and Leukemia in American Samoa, Journal of Pediatrics.

As noted in various reports, refresher courses were conducted, especially in public health, and an effort was made to render a more effective medical-preventive service in the outlying districts.

Department of Education

The present administration has placed special emphasis upon the need for a program in this department that will show indications of a permanent organization. Frequent changes in administrative personnel had previously added to the difficulty of establishing a system that has semblance of permanence.

Education: Popular With Samoans

The people of Samoa show genuine enthusiasm over the educational program. Truancy is at a minimum and pupils are willing to travel long distances to school. Illiterates number less than 1 percent.

School attendance is compulsory for ages 7 to 15 inclusive. Education is free except for textbooks and personal supplies. Before 1954, only 35 were selected for high school annually, but this was increased to 70 beginning with March 1, 1954. An additional 35 are selected for the vocational school and about 20 for nurses' training. Admission to these classes is considered a privilege, and there are many on the waiting list.

Elementary Schools

Increased enrollment.—There was a decided increase in the enrollment in the elementary schools this year. In 1953 the enrollment in the public schools was 4,260, whereas in 1954 the number is 4,009—
an increase of 649, slightly over 15 percent in 1 year. Among the reasons for this increase are the general increase in population and the transfer of a number of students from parochial schools.

This increase in school enrollment becomes more serious when we realize that language difficulties with untrained teachers make smaller classes imperative. Classes now average 30 pupils.

New Buildings

Eleven new school buildings were constructed, and new living quarters for 10 teachers were built during the year.

Census and Birth Certificates

During July 1954 a census is being taken of all children below the age of 8 years so that we may have an accurate basis for future planning. Birth certificates are now required, or other evidence of birth, upon entrance to the first grade. This year 1,062 pupils entered the first grade.

Standards for Teachers

Positive attempts are being made to improve the standards for the elementary teachers. These include the following:

1. Continuation of the teachers' institute in January and February with special emphasis upon skill in the use of English.
2. Organization of a reading club using pocket books as a means of encouraging reading. Several hundred books have been ordered already.
3. Preparation of Samoan-English dictionary with basic list of 600 words.
4. Setting up a new salary schedule which makes it profitable for a teacher to have more preparation.

Purchase of Books

A survey was made in all villages to determine as to what extent parents were purchasing texts. The median was 56 percent and the range from 33 percent to 100 percent. With this information on record, a campaign will be made to increase the number of texts.

High School

The high-school enrollment was affected in March 1954 when Navy recruiters accepted 48 of our best young men. This has its advantages for them, but with the cream of male leadership thus removed, the progress of instruction for the remaining 144 had to be given special attention. Future plans must also keep the possibility in mind of Samoan young men in high school entering the Armed Services. However, some of these men will return as trained technicians to work in Samoa.

The senior high school includes grades 10 to 12. Post-graduate courses are offered in the fields of teacher-training, college-preparatory, and commercial training.

Vocational Schools

At the present time 35 students are selected from the ninth grade graduates who do not go to high school. They may attend for 1 year, and a few of them, 10 to 15, may take advanced work. They are prepared for jobs available in the community.

Feleti Memorial Teacher-Training School

The Navy recruiters accepted most of the students enrolled in this school. In the future, the administration of this school will be closely connected with the high school as post-graduate work.

Teachers are required to attend the 6-weeks institute during January and February. Instruction is given by the high-school faculty, assisted by elementary supervisors. In 1954, the institute enrolled 209 teachers.

Scholarships

United Nations Scholarship.—One Samoan administrator spent 12 months attending the University of the Philippines. Another Samoan teacher is in Australia taking special work in several schools.

Barstow Foundation Scholarships.—Five teachers are attending our teacher-training school and their regular salaries are paid by the Barstow Memorial Foundations.

Phelps Phelps Loan Fund.—A loan fund established by former Governor Phelps Phelps is giving aid to three students now attending college in the States.

Health Program

The department works in cooperation with the Department of Public Health with medical and dental checks frequently. A nurse visits the school once each week.
Departmental Organization

Director of education, 1  
Samoan consultant, 1  
Director of elementary education, 1  
Director of secondary education, 1  
Chief supervisor, 1  
Assistant in charge of buildings, equipment and personnel, 1  
Special supervisors, 3

Grade specialists, 6  
Elementary principals, 47  
Junior-high principals, 5  
High-school teachers, 8  
Vocational principal, 1  
Clerical staff, 10  
Elementary teachers (in addition to principals), 367

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The main function of the Department of Agriculture is to evolve, through short- and long-range programs of development and education, the ultimate potential production of the agricultural economy. The basic principle of this department maintains that all efforts expended must lead to the ultimate good of the Samoan people. The department made favorable progress during the year in carrying its program to the people of the Territory. There were several personnel changes during the year and considerable reorganization particularly at the experimental farm and in the extension division. For purposes of convenience and control, the department is divided into the following divisions: Office of the Director; Dairy; Experimental Farm; Extension Service.

In April, the department moved from its small cramped quarters into a much larger and efficient office.

A major problem, as yet unsolved, is the need for a complete economic survey of the Territory, including information on soil, land-use, botanical, veterinary, and pathology. This would give a complete picture of the needs of the Territory. Without this information and the development of programs based on this survey, the economic development plans of the Territory must be based upon unverified estimates.

During the year the staff entomologist introduced the lady beetle (Rodolia cardinalis) to control the so-called mealy bug of breadfruit (Icerya seychellarum), the Scelionid Wasp (Microphararus basalis) from Fiji, and the green stink bug (Nezara viridula), a pest of many vegetable crops. Research was also conducted on coconut beetle damage in Tutuila, crown control of the coconut beetle by chemical means, chemical and mechanical control methods of the coconuttick phasmid (Gracillera crouanti), chemical and biological controls of the Taro Army Worm (Prodenia litura), and a survey of economic insects of American Samoa.

The following projects were carried on during the past fiscal year: Attempts were made to increase the frequency and effectiveness of village beetle hunting for the coconut beetle; procedures and literature on fumigation were obtained; a fumigation vault was built; quarantine laws and methods applicable to American Samoa were reviewed and suggested; instruction of agricultural extension agents in entomological problems in American Samoa was carried out.

Dairy

The dairy is primarily a production project to provide a clean, high quality, safe milk for the people of American Samoa. It provides milk for the Samoan Hospital and those private customers who desire it. We have been unable to supply the demand for whole milk and milk byproducts. This will be overcome this coming fiscal year with the arrival of new milking stock. In addition, attempts are being made to improve the stock with the eventual hope of interesting Samoans in family milk production. This secondary purpose will not succeed for quite some time, due to lack of desire and skill on the part of the average Samoan. The dairy, for the past few years, has been self-sustaining, and it is believed that it should be maintained on that basis.

The dairy is located about 7 miles from our main office and 5 miles from the experimental farm. Since the farm manager supervises the dairy, it is rather difficult to give it the supervision needed. Dairy work is performed by three Samoan personnel under the direction of a Samoan dairy foreman. It is planned to move the dairy to a more favorable location during fiscal year 1955. The present site is in a wet valley and, as a result, the cows suffer from hoof rot caused by fungus. Due to the projected move, a minimum of maintenance work has been performed.

Milk production for the fiscal year was 142,425.7 pounds.

The dairy operates a modern pasteurization plant for processing and bottling of the dairy products. This plant is located near the hospital of American Samoa, due to the fact that it is one of the few sources of steam which is a necessity. Pasteurization and delivery is handled by two Samoan personnel trained for this work.

Income from the sale of dairy products amounted to $7,557.89 and went into the general fund. Several old cows and calves were sold and revenue in the amount of $333 went into the general fund.
Experimental Farm

The experimental farm was designed as an introduction and experimental project where new plant varieties and species could be tested for use within the Territory. Over the past 12 or 15 years, it has also assumed the function of providing temperate zone crops for the use of governmental personnel to make up for the local deficiency in fresh vegetables.

During fiscal year 1954, the farm was improved considerably by reorganizing its layout and by construction of new buildings. These changes will enable more efficient use of land and labor resources in the future. The amount of level tillable land was increased from 4 to 11 acres. This will allow a rotation system to be carried on whereby worn out land can be rejuvenated. This is very necessary on 4 acres as only the recently cleaned areas maintain ample fertility for production of crops. Three farm areas not suitable for plowing were made into calf pastures, while one hill side was planted to 500 coffee plants and dadup, a nitrogen fixing tree. Other acres are still to be improved and will be as soon as time and labor facilities permit. It is planned that all of the farm will soon be divided into 1-acre sections and utilized to a better advantage.

Little, if any, produce now goes to waste because the prison uses all unsold vegetables, bananas, breadfruit, etc. This amounted to 4,882 pounds of produce during the fiscal year. Cash sales for produce amounted to $1,500.83, which went into the general fund.

The records show that 25 roosters and hens were sold or traded to local Samoans. These were to be used as breeding stock for improvement of their flocks. The demand is still high, with a long list of unfilled requests. More poultry were not sold because it was desired to build up a breeding flock for greater future distribution. Egg production has increased from 2 dozen a week to 10 dozen a week at present. It is hoped to increase egg production to 4 dozen per day, and the sale of breeding stock to hundreds per year. The sale of fowl amounted to $33.50, which went into the general fund.

Only a few crop experiments could be carried out due to the reorganization of the farm. Of the ones completed or partially completed the following are worthy of note: (a) Sweetpotatoes: Potash seems to be critical element, as it will double the yield at an increased cost of 1 cent per pound of extra yield; (b) weed competition in pineapple reduces the growth to a noticeable extent. This was shown by planting suckers through tarpaper versus normal planting. The time required to weed was also reduced 75 percent in the tarpaper-covered pineapple. The yield is yet to be established as the experiment has not reached that stage of development; (c) cucumbers: A shovelful of cow or horse manure placed below each hill at the time of planting has increased yields up to 200 percent.

Other experiments are not yet advanced enough to give accurate information but need to be either completed or repeated.

It is planned to introduce for experimentation any crop or plant which may supply the local residents with either a future food or export product.

Extension Service

The main function of the extension service is the dissemination of information to the planters. This information comes from neighboring islands, foreign governments, and from experiments carried out at the experimental farm and dairy. It is the main link between the department and the Samoan people. Supervision of the extension service had been carried on by the assistant director. At the beginning of fiscal year 1954, there were five extension agents in the field, four on Tutuila and one in Manu'a; the latter resigned in March, the only resignation in the extension service during the year. The extension service supervised the planting of coconuts in nursery, made crop reports, special crop surveys, such as banana and cocoa, and gave advice in general to the planters.

Several fertilization experiments on Samoan plantation were carried out using local materials, as well as commercial chemicals, such as natural coral, burnt coral, wood ashes, coconut husks, shell ashes, potassium sulfate, ammonium sulfate, and superphosphate.

The extension supervisor made several trips to Manu'a and Western Samoa during the fiscal year, as well as conducting a class in agriculture at the Atauloma school. This lasted 4 months and was conducted each Friday morning. Information was broadcast once a week over station WUV with the extension supervisor, extension agents, or guest speakers furnishing information. It is planned to continue these programs during fiscal year 1955.

In March, High Chief Tafele, a successful planter, assumed the position of assistant director and began to prepare an agricultural short course which began April 12 and lasted 6 weeks, during which time the 4 experienced agents, 10 new agent candidates, and the newly appointed district agricultural officers studied under the extension supervisor, assistant director, high school agriculture teacher, farm manager, staff entomologist, and Mr. Ben Gurr, a Samoan planter. The course was an intensive 4 weeks of class work, 1 week of field trips, on Tutuila, and the last week the assistant director, with the three district agricultural officers, visited plantations in Western Samoa.
Six of the new candidates were selected to begin work on July 1, 1954, in the extension service. The service now has 10 agents in the field, 7 on Tutuila, and 3 in Manua. The agents in each district are under the direct supervision of the district agricultural officer, who works closely with the district governor and other local Government officials. These officers receive their instructions from the assistant director. With the utilization of Samoan leadership under this new program, it is hoped that better relations and closer cooperation with local Government officials will be achieved.

It is planned to instigate a large scale cocoa-planting program in fiscal 1955 with selected cocoa seeds from Western Samoa. The very high returns from cocoa indicate that it will greatly benefit the local economy when American Samoa gets into production.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

On May 22, 1953, the attorney general was assigned the additional duties of acting director of public safety, which he continued to carry out during the fiscal year. The combination of the offices of attorney general and director of public safety has proven to be more efficient and harmonious than having them separate, and present plans are to continue the offices under the attorney general. As a result of the combination, reductions in force have been possible which have contributed both to the economy and the efficiency of both offices.

The attorney general is the chief legal officer of the Government. In that capacity he serves as legal counsel for its executive and legislative branches. His duties, which include the representation of the Government as prosecutor in all felonies and as attorney in all actions in law and equity in which the Government is a party or has an interest, the drafting of legal documents, and the rendering of formal opinions and informal advice for the legal guidance of the Government and the people of the Territory, have remained substantially the same throughout the year. In addition, he is delegated the functions of passport officer. By Federal statute and by special authorization of the United States Department of State, the Governor of American Samoa is vested with consular powers. The responsibility for the investigation of applicants for documentation and the preparation of papers in connection with these consular powers rests with the attorney general.

Assisting the attorney general in the administration of the office are a legal secretary, chief, immigration branch, and a chief investigator. The legal secretary is assisted by a junior typist who acts as file clerk. The chief, immigration branch, is a newly created position presently filled by a locally trained Samoan. He is responsible for all immigration matters handled by the office of the attorney general. He is assisted by a junior clerk, who is studying immigration regulations and procedures. The chief investigator is assisted by a stenographer, who is presently performing the functions previously performed by the assistant investigator, in addition to clerical functions, translations, and maintenance of criminal files and records. The position of assistant investigator is presently vacant. The stenographer has shown an aptitude for the work, and thus far has been able to carry the increased load placed upon him. If the experiment is successful, the position of assistant investigator will be abolished, and all activities of the chief investigator's division will be placed in the hands of the chief investigator and the stenographer.

Immigration

As noted above, the former head clerk has been given full responsibility for all immigration matters. This is in keeping with the policy of the office to give Samoans full responsibility wherever they demonstrate the ability to handle it. During the year, 6 passports were issued, 11 renewals and 2 amendments of passports made, 11 visas granted, 16 quota and 7 no-quotas issued, and 137 letters of identity prepared. Letters of identity, which have been approved by the Department of State and the United States Immigration Service, are issued to American Samoans (United States nationals) and to citizens of the United States desiring to travel to and from the United States or its Territories and possessions. The revenue derived from this consular office is forwarded to the Finance Division of the State Department, Washington, D.C. During the year, the largest single task of the immigration division consisted in processing 84 persons for enlistment in the United States Navy.

Prosecution Section

During the first year, 206 cases were disposed of as shown below, as compared with 95 cases for the preceding fiscal year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1955</th>
<th>1954</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convicted</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nolle pros(eque)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquitted</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed without prosecution</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cases disposed</strong></td>
<td>95</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above statistics include 71 traffic cases handled during the year. Legal advice, settlement, and arbitration of disputes was rendered in 1,024 cases during the year.
The chief investigator, a locally trained Samoan, who is legal assistant to the attorney general, has handled a few minor cases during the fiscal year, and is continuing his program of study to increase his abilities. He has reorganized his division as outlined above. He and the stenographer are presently engaged in the lengthy task of translating the revised code.

Amendments to the Code.—During the fiscal year, 7 amendments to the code, 13 Executive orders, and 5 proclamations by the Governor were published.

Two amendments are of special interest. One is the deletion of section 1280 of our land law. This section was capable of different interpretations, and after much study it was determined that it should be deleted. The other noteworthy change provides that contract employees may under certain circumstances acquire a domicile here for divorce purposes.

In the field of Executive orders, provision was made, for the first time, for a complete governmental organization for Swains Island. The residents of Swains Island now have substantially the same form of local government as other villages of American Samoa. Other Executive orders were promulgated to deal with the great number of Japanese nationals who were here while fishing for Van Camp Sea Food Co. It is interesting to note that although there were over 250 Japanese in and out of port for a considerable period of time, no instances of fights or disturbances involving Japanese were reported during the period.

The revision of the code was completed during the fiscal year, and the revised material is being printed at the local print shop. The new material will be promulgated and distributed as soon as the printing of the English version is completed.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

During the fiscal year the Department of Public Safety continued under the administration of the attorney general. Adjustments have been made in the assignment and responsibility of the department to coordinate its activities with those of the office of the attorney general. In many respects, the two departments were previously performing duplicate work. This has been corrected and the efficiency of both offices was improved thereby.

Morale and discipline continued high during the year, partly as a result of past training of most of the policemen in the Armed Forces, and partly as a result of increased supervision by the chief of police. During the past year, the responsibilities of the chief of police have been increased to compensate for the lack of a director of public safety.

American Samoa has no narcotic problem, no prostitution problem per se, no auto theft, and very little grand larceny. The staff has had considerable experience in dealing with the types of crime which occur most frequently, and during the year has submitted reports thereto which for the most part have been of excellent quality, the cases largely being ready for trial without further investigation by the attorney general. In two cases during the year, the files were referred back to the investigating officers for further investigation. In all other instances reports have been satisfactory.

The police force consists of 1 chief of police, 1 captain of police, 1 police liaison aide, 3 lieutenants, 4 sergeants, and 35 patrolmen, and the prison staff consists of 1 warden and 4 guards. Their training is continued by weekly lectures given by the attorney general, upon which an annual examination is to be given, and weekly lectures by the chief of police, in which activities for the past week and coming weeks are discussed, the lessons being of a practical nature, based upon experience.

Offenses.—Complaints filed with the police department during the fiscal year are as follows, compared with last year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offenses</th>
<th>1952</th>
<th>1953</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assault and battery</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorderly conduct</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunkenness</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewd and lascivous conduct</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcery</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manslaughter</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal use of dynamite</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perjury</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smuggling liquor</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms, illegal possession</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal entry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False pretenses</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escape from prison</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted stowaway</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trespass</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adultery</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fornication</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic violation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malfeasance of duty</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Criminal Investigation.**—The detective division of the police department is operated under the direction of the captain of police, whose efforts are coordinated with those of the chief investigator in the attorney general’s office. Preliminary investigation of most cases is done by the patrolman to whom the complaint is made. This is particularly true of the night and morning watches. The patrolman ascertains the names of all witnesses, and assumes custody of any evidence which may be found. The preliminary report is then forwarded to the investigating officers, who complete the investigation by interrogating witnesses, taking photographs, making diagrams, obtaining laboratory and hospital reports, and similar matters.

**Traffic.**—The fiscal year has seen an intensification of efforts in the field of traffic safety. In 1958, three persons were convicted of traffic offenses; in 1954, the number was 41. Traffic tickets are issued frequently by police officers. A new traffic code is to be enacted, providing that offenders may be taken before a magistrate and tried immediately, after the style of the justice of the peace courts in the United States. It is felt that this will result in a further increase in the number of traffic convictions.

**Prison.**—The prison has an average population of 30. The prison is under the supervision of 1 prison warden, who holds the rank of police lieutenant, and 4 prison guards. During the year, the prison farm was combined with the agriculture farm at Taputimu. Four to six prisoners are permanently assigned to the farm, and learn proper agricultural methods while performing labor for the Government on the farm. The farm supplies a large part of the prison diet in exchange for labor. Prisoners are also assigned to the Public Works Department for labor, and perform other useful work about the Government area.

**Fire Division**

The fire division operates under a 2-platoon system with a complement of 6 firemen under its fire chief. In case of fire, trained policemen are called to assist the fire division. The fire division maintains a 24-hour watch 7 days a week. This division maintains a periodic check of the 450 portable fire extinguishers installed in the various facilities of the Government, recharging extinguishers when they require it. This division operates 4 fire engines and 1 tow-type pump. These units are tested and inspected each day to insure their readiness in case of emergency. Ample stocks of fittings and fixtures are on hand. One fire truck is over age and is in line for survey; a replacement is needed. Periodic fire drills are made to familiarize fire fighters with various ways and methods of attacking fires. During the year three fires occurred and were extinguished through the prompt action of the fire division.

**SAMOAN AFFAIRS OFFICE**

The Samoan Affairs Office functions within the Governor’s office and is primarily concerned with the administration of the local government organization composed of village, county, and district chiefs, and their councils. In attempting to achieve the objective of local self-government, this department has placed great stress upon the need to make the operation of the Government real and meaningful to the village Samoans. Out of the traditional social organization and based upon the authority of the family heads or matais, a system of district government has been developed during the course of the past 5 years. At the present, these district organizations, of which there are three, are largely self-contained and self-governing in matters of a strictly local nature. This is particularly true in the Manu'a district, which is removed some 60 miles by sea from the centers of commerce and industry on Tutuila.

At the village level the basic problems relate to agriculture and fishing, water supply and sanitation, roads and channels through the reefs, school construction and maintenance of public health facilities. The Samoan Affairs Office attempts to coordinate the efforts of the governmental agencies involved so as to bring technical assistance to the villagers to assist them in solving their own problems. It has been found that Samoan local leaders are in large measure capable of meeting the needs of their villages where such advice and assistance is made available to them, and where they recognize that a real need for improvement exists. Thus, the Samoan Affairs acts as a liaison between the territorial administration and the people of the villages in assessing their problems and directing the attention of the proper governmental body toward assisting them.

In addition to the regular monthly meetings of the district governors and county chiefs with the Governor, the Samoan Affairs office has, during the past year, held quarterly meetings (of the local Government officials) in the outlying villages of each district to discuss their particular problems as well as the aims and overall policies of the administration. These meetings have met with considerable success, and combined with the regular inspection trips which are taken to each village, have helped to weld the local Government organization into a more cohesive and unified group.

In an attempt to work more closely with the legislative branch and to provide such technical and other advice as is necessary, the Samoan
Affairs officer was appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Legislature to serve in the additional capacity of legislative liaison officer. As such he attends the regular and special sessions of the Legislature and assists members in obtaining the facts relating to any specific piece of proposed legislation. In addition, he maintains contact with the Governor and the various department heads regarding the day-to-day proceedings on the floors of the two Houses.

As a further attempt to instill a spirit of cooperation between the branches of the Samoan Government, the district governors were invited by the Legislature to sit in the Senate sessions and to discuss local problems relating to their district whenever that is considered either necessary or desirable. These two steps have tended to eliminate a considerable amount of misunderstanding and duplication of effort which existed previously.

By Executive order, a village council consisting of all adult males was established on Swains Island. This council elects its own mayor and village policeman. Under the direction of a Government representative, who is also the schoolteacher, local government is now functioning effectively on Swains Island for the first time.

A standard approved set of 10 village regulations has been established by this office, and upon approval by the village council concerned, these are promulgated in the villages for enforcement by the district courts. This has tended to make the village regulations somewhat more uniform and has assured that they are both legal and enforceable.

In conformity with the goal of achieving somewhat more stability in the local government organization at the village level, it was agreed by the district governors and the county chiefs that in the future village mayors who proved to be satisfactory would be permitted to serve two 2-year terms instead of being limited to their present 1-year term of office.

There still exists a very definite need for immediate revision of the system of local government in the Pago Pago Bay area where many of the traditional social controls which still function well in the outlying villages have gradually broken down under the impact of western concepts and of a dollar-oriented colony. It is proposed to establish a municipality of Pago Pago which would be incorporated with its own board of managers or city council to replace the traditional system which relies largely upon family chiefs for control. This problem is receiving attention and study and it is hoped that it will be resolved during the forthcoming year.

Working with the council of paramount chiefs, the Samoan Affairs office assisted in arranging for the traditional welcoming kava cer-
monies for the many distinguished guests who visited this territory during the year. In addition, the council of paramount chiefs met throughout the year in the Samoan Affairs office to discuss problems relating to the traditional dignity and customs of Samoa.

In the last months of the year, a great deal of time was drawn from the other activities of this department to the preparation of materials for the committee sitting to draft a constitution for American Samoa. The Samoan Affairs officer serves as secretary to this committee.

Throughout the year the emphasis has been on placing more and more responsibility for making decisions in local matters upon the local leaders and then supporting their decisions. This has proved to be a successful system, and the confidence placed in Samoan abilities has been more than justified. It is intended to continue this policy until the ultimate goal of local self-government is attained.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

This office was transferred from the Department of Education and made into an independent office.

The objective of the information and adult education program is to introduce into contemporary Samoan adult life a comprehension of facts and concepts necessary for modern Samoan life, primarily through a constructive and educational exploitation of mass media.

The major categories of the activities of the program are:

1. Publications.
2. Broadcasting.
3. Field relations.

Publication

The publication program was founded on a basic information organ, the Samoan-language Failauga Samoa, a mimeographed weekly paper which presents a studied and comprehensive report on Government activities, policies, and programs, as well as a survey of local affairs, major world events, and other matters relevant to current information projects.

This publication has progressed from an initial 2-page, 150-copy edition, to an average 6-page paper distributed to 3,500 Samoan family units on Tutuila Island; and is now generally regarded as an institution.

The Office of Information and Adult Education also publishes a daily public-service English language information release for non-Samoan-reading residents and English-reading Samoans which gives
an account of local developments of major interest and a summary of world news developments. The publication is distributed to the Samoan teachers and used extensively in the village schools.

A third publication—O Le Faatonu, a bilingual, quarterly Government journal—has recently been re instituted in the regularly scheduled publishing program of the office. This journal is primarily an official gazette of Government activities.

Special publications on specific educational subjects have been prepared for other Government departments on subjects such as malnutrition, copra planting, etc., as well as material for political education in connection with the initiation of democratic elections by secret ballot with universal suffrage.

Broadcasting

The broadcasting program was initiated on an experimental basis in 1952 and, early in 1953 the Office of Information and Adult Education began regularly scheduled operations of radio station WVUV, which broadcasts with a carrier power of 50 watts, under authority granted by the Inter-Department Radio Advisory Commission.

The station is on the air a total of 25 hours per week, 5 nights a week, and the broadcasting program has been developed to the point where 10 of the 25 hours are devoted to information programs.

The information broadcasts are coordinated with the publishing program and oriented in terms of the major information projects.

Field Relations

Preliminary work on the field program was begun in late 1952. Further steps were taken during 1953–54 in the form of making battery radios available to the Samoan public for purchase, showing educational films, improving publication distribution methods, and other minor activities. The original “timetable” for the development of the program called for concentration of the field program to begin in July 1954.

The proposed field program consists of the following elements:

1. Setting up model discussion groups and supplying them with supplementary material and guides to material published in regular publications and broadcasts, and assisting individual villages in organizing their own groups. To this end, a special course in discussion group leadership was given to the village teachers at the Teachers’ Institute. The village teachers are the most logical group from which discussion leaders might be selected.

2. Through the medium of these discussion groups, a more direct presentation of educational material such as film strips, moving pictures, etc., is possible. The Office of Information and Adult Education has in the past prepared special Samoan-language sound tracks for educational movies and found that their value has been tremendously increased thereby. (See Pacific Quarterly for July 1953, published by the South Pacific Commission.)

Information Projects

The program has been organized in terms of information-education projects. For example, one project indexed “Government Finance and Budget,” concerns itself with explaining the basic principles of the Government’s financial operations, i.e., planning an expenditure program, justification of the proposed expenditures, use of funds in accordance with approved budgetary allotments, etc. This is a project in continuous application; each news item throughout the year dealing with budgetary developments presents an opportunity for further treatment of the project.

Another project indexed “Pacific,” strives to acquaint and familiarize the Samoan people with the economic and political geography of their own islands and those of their Pacific neighbors. Naturally, development news of developments in Western Samoa predominates this project.

These special projects, among others, are in addition to regular projects on health, agriculture, Government operations, etc.

The general aim, then, of the coordinated program is to advance each one of the projects.

The information programs of the broadcasting station are, as mentioned above, oriented in terms of these information projects: “Fono News” is a program devoted to news of the activities of the local Legislature as well as documentary and graphic explanations of the organization and working of a modern bicameral legislature; “Agriculture Agent” is a program emphasizing the work of the extension program of the Agriculture Department; “Court News” uses the appeal of information concerning court proceedings to introduce educational material on the concepts of Western law, such as the Bill of Rights, etc. Other projects find outlet in the regular “newcasts” and other scheduled programs.

Personnel

The Office of Information and Adult Education is staffed at present by the following personnel: Chief information—education officer (stateside), chief editorialist, senior editorialist, junior editorialist,
ASSOCIATED AGENCIES

Bank of American Samoa

A sharp increase was made in demand deposits over the previous year. This unexpected large increase was due principally to the deposit of all Government funds in the Bank of American Samoa and also to a substantial increase of revenue from the United States in the form of allotment checks, pensions, etc. During fiscal year 1954, a great many Samoans left American Samoa and either joined the Armed Forces or took private employment in Hawaii or the United States. This emigration has financially aided American Samoa inasmuch as almost all of these emigrants returned part of their earnings to relatives in American Samoa. Grant-in-aid and direct Federal appropriation from the United States Treasury during fiscal year 1954 amounted to $1,550,000. An increase of approximately $50,000 in time deposits over the previous year is an indication that the indigenous people are becoming aware of the benefits of saving. This is gratifying inasmuch as a great emphasis has been placed on promoting the habit of saving to the people of American Samoa by the staff and management of the bank. A total of 666 new savings accounts were opened during the past year, a result of this emphasis. Payroll deduction savings and the school savings plan were also part of this program. A total of 18,316 transactions were handled by the savings department during the past year—an average of 74 items per working day. Eight hundred and forty-six loans were granted during the past year totaling $138,885.48. The majority of these loans were granted to the indigenous people for the building and repairing of houses, purchase of capital goods such as automobiles, sewing machines, refrigerators, bicycles, etc. Loans also were granted for construction of village schools, churches, and other community improvements. All these loans are being repaid as agreed. No losses were incurred and delinquencies are nil. It is felt that our loan program is aiding the indigenous people to obtain a better standard of living. It is also teaching them the responsibility of obligation and the value of a good credit standing.

Gross earnings for the current fiscal year were $34,736.41, an increase of $990.54 over the previous year. Gross expenses were $28,693.68, an increase of $5,923.29 over the previous year. An increase of $2,948.41 in salaries paid plus a cost of $4,271.20 in the changing of personnel accounted for this large increase in expenditures.

The annual dividend of $2,500 was declared and paid to the Government of American Samoa.

Capital, surplus, and undivided profits totaled $6,644.73 over the previous year. The total is made up as follows:

- Capital: $50,000.00
- Surplus: $50,000.00
- Undivided profits: $6,644.73

Much favorable publicity has been given to the Bank of American Samoa as being a unique bank for this area. This has been accomplished by the combined efforts of the board of directors, staff, Government, business firms, and most of all the good will and cooperation of the people of American Samoa. Forty years of successful operations by being useful to the people of American Samoa, the Government and the business firms has made the bank an integral part of the community. By continuing this policy, the Bank of American Samoa will play its part in the growth of its island economy and provide a strong financial link with the rest of the world.

Copra Fund

The Government of American Samoa has for over 50 years assisted island producers in marketing their chief export crop, copra. The agency providing this service is the copra fund operating under the direction of a copra board composed of Government officers and Samoan leaders. Because of the small amounts grown by local producers and the relatively unsophisticated nature of the Samoans in handling business transactions, it has proven to be greatly to the advantage of the Territory to continue this cooperative enterprise.

The board is presided over by the director, management services, and a statement of the year’s operations will be found in the department’s report.

Copra is purchased through Samoan copra clerks living in the outlying villages and in the islands of the Manu’a group. It is in these
remote areas, particularly in Manu'a, where the people have not altered their agrarian way of living, that nearly the entire copra crop is grown. After purchase of the sun-dried product, it is stored in sheds owned by the cooperative until motor vessels operating on Government charter can collect it. When sufficient copra is available for shipment at Pago Pago, bids are opened through an agent in San Francisco and necessary shipping arrangements are made. During the year, copra production increased substantially.

With the replanting program instituted by the Department of Agriculture, the outlook for a continuing increase in production with accompanying benefits to the people of this Territory is most favorable.

**Samoan Industries**

In 1946 the Government took steps to assist the Samoan producers of mats and woodcraft in marketing their products outside the Territory. This is accomplished through the Samoan Industries Board, an organization composed of both Samoans and Government officials. This cooperative agency, while established with Government assistance, is now self-supporting and receives only technical assistance and administrative guidance from the Government.

Operating on a plan similar to that established by the copra fund, the industries, through the manager and his production staff, purchased the products of local weavers and wood carvers. In addition, they render assistance in standardizing items to fill larger orders and in raising the quality of their products.

During the year, the industries did business totaling $58,599.83, most of which was with retail outlets in the Territory of Hawaii and within the continental United States.

A primary handicap to exporting larger amounts has been the inadequate and infrequent shipping facilities provided to this Territory. Long delays in filling orders have caused retailers to hesitate in making large purchases.

At the year's end the industries had, however, paid off a bank loan made in 1952. This loan had been made for the purpose of subsidizing local craftsmen during a period of economic hardship.

The net worth of the cooperative was $25,533.35 at the end of the year.

If transportation can be made available more frequently, the export of lau'ala mats to Hawaii can be more than doubled within a short period. Materials are readily available for increasing production of lau'ala floor mats to 750,000 square feet per month, and more than 5,500 skilled weavers are at present retained for work with the industries. Their mats are among the finest of their type to be found anywhere in the world, being long-wearing and resistant to damage by sunshine or dampness. Similarly, in the field of woodcraft, 200 experienced craftsmen are available to increase production when the demand requires, although since all Samoan woodcraft is produced entirely by hand, expansion in this area could not be made so rapidly.

Since the transition from naval to civil administration the industries have not been able to exploit fully the possibilities of the American market. The Territory's economy will be enhanced to large measure if the Samoan industry, working in conjunction with the Government, can develop improved techniques, production of high quality, and new markets.

**Government of American Samoa balance sheet, general fund, June 30, 1954**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of American Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Trust Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imprest funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned checks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poll taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on United States and bank dividends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kents and leases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwellings bills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital bills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business operations:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans receivable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories, supplies and materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction, work in progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment, Bank of American Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Treasury bonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fixed assets:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and fixtures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fixed assets</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA


### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deferred charges:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stores expense clearing account</td>
<td>$39,519.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs, capital equipment</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance, form buildings</td>
<td>70.80</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$39,621.54</strong></td>
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**Trust funds:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government of American Samoa retirement fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special deposits</td>
<td>15,777.92</td>
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<td><strong>Total trust funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>48,225.35</strong></td>
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**Total assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,048,516.37</strong></td>
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### LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

**Current Liabilities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Payrolls</td>
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<td>Unclaimed wages</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Services Administration</td>
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<td>Withholding tax</td>
<td>334.89</td>
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<td>Contracts and leases</td>
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<td>Retirement deductions-048</td>
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<td>Supply operations clearing account</td>
<td>1,665.05</td>
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<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>444,825.08</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Trust and deposit liabilities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special deposits</td>
<td>35,944.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility deposits</td>
<td>9,314.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government of American Samoa retirement fund</td>
<td>32,447.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barstow Foundation</td>
<td>4,557.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. V. Simon</td>
<td>489.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prisoners rehabilitation</td>
<td>29.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total trust and deposit liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,839.35</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Capital:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available funds unallotted</td>
<td>$392,418.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unobligated, allotments</td>
<td>220,612.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unliquidated obligations</td>
<td>243,381.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invested and donated capital</td>
<td>2,945,000.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total capital</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,604,621.24</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total liabilities and capital:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and capital</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,048,516.37</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>