

Tamesese, finding that he was no longer supported by Germany, surrendered his fort and disbanded his army. There is no doubt but that at this time the German consul would have actually assisted the pretender Tamesese, had it not been for the strenuous protest made by the British and American consuls and the captains of the British Corvette Diamond and the American steamer Mohican which were then in port at Apia.

From late advices, it would appear that, although the German consul was prevented from carrying his designs in June, 1886, he has seized the first favourable opportunity afforded him to do so. The time was ripe for action on March 22nd, 1887. The hostility between the loyal natives and the Germans had constantly increased since the rebellion broke out in favour of Tamesese in the previous year. The Germans had complained of thefts committed by the natives and the natives complained of the injustice of the Germans in land transactions. On March 22nd, the German sailors came ashore at Apia to celebrate the Emperor William's birthday. Some of them becoming intoxicated raised a quarrel with the natives. A free fight ensued in which the sailors came off second best. The German commodore sent to King Malietoa demanding \$13,000 as damages for the injury done to the Germans, \$1000 being included as a personal fine upon the King.

King Malietoa protested against the payment of these damages and asked time to consider, but on the following day Germans from the fleet landed and posted the following proclamation:

Citizens of Apia: By order of his Majesty the Emperor of Germany war has been declared against Chief Malietoa. The neutrality of the municipal district will be respected so long as the security of the German troops is not endangered by any agitation within the municipal district. I call upon the inhabitants to assist me in the maintenance of peace and good order in Apia.

HENSULT,

Commodore and commander of the German Squadron.

On August 25th the four German men-of-war lying at Apia landed 1,500 troops and marines, and proclaimed that King Malietoa had been deposed, and that Tamesese was king in his stead.

The British and American consuls immediately issued the following proclamation:—

"Whereas, the government of Germany has this day proclaimed Tamesese king of Samoa; now, therefore, we, the undersigned representatives of the United States of America and of Great Britain, hereby give notice that we and our governments do not and never have recognized Tamesese as King of Samoa, but continue as heretofore to recognize Malietoa. We advise all Samoans to submit quietly, not to fight, whatever their provocation, but to await peaceably the result of deliberations now in progress, which alone can determine the future of Samoa."

Signed.

W. H. WILSON, H. B. M., pro-consul.
H. M. SEWELL, U. S. Consul.

Apia, Aug 25th, 1887.

Early in September two more German men-of-war arrived, and in all 3,100 soldiers and marines were landed. The Germans now have control of the islands thus breaking the agreement of 1884 that the independence of Samoa would be preserved.

These islands have recently become more important from the fact that they lie in the proposed Pacific route between Victoria, B. C., and New Zealand and Australia. If they are to remain independent and neutral, well and good, but if not Great Britain will doubtless see that it is not in her interests that they should pass into the hands of a foreign power. The Feejee Islands were annexed by Great Britain in 1874; but the Samoan group would offer a more easily accessible port of call. Hawaii also lies in the new Pacific steamship route and it goes without saying that this position will not be allowed to pass into the hands of any foreign country. The outcome of the present difficulty will evince whether Great Britain thinks as highly as she ought to think of the new Pacific steamship route which Canada has opened up to the Australian possessions of the empire.