

THE MELANESIAN LABOURERS ORDINANCE, 1927.

Western Samoa.

No. 3, 1927.



An Ordinance

made by the Administrator of the Territory of Western Samoa, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of that Territory, and in pursuance of the Samoa Act, 1921.

Title 1. This Ordinance may be cited as "The Melanesian Labourers Ordinance, 1927."

Definition 2. In this Ordinance "Melanesian labourer" or "labourer" means any native of Melanesia who has been brought to Western Samoa to serve as a labourer and is so serving at the date of this Ordinance.

Labourer to be employed by Government. 3. No labourer shall be employed in Western Samoa save by the Government of Western Samoa or by the Government of New Zealand.

Labourer deemed to have entered into contract. 4. Every labourer shall be deemed to have entered into a binding agreement with the Director of Labour as the representative of the Government employing such labourer embodying the terms contained in the schedule (but not to the exclusion of other terms not being inconsistent with such first mentioned terms) and the rights, duties, and liabilities respectively of the labourer and of the Government employing such labourer shall be determined accordingly.

THE SCHEDULE.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT.

1. The Director of Labour as agent for the Government employing the labourer will find continuous employment for the labourer as an agricultural labourer, domestic servant, workshop hand or otherwise throughout the period of the labourer's residence in Western Samoa.

2. The labourer will throughout the said period give his services faithfully and continuously to the Government employing him as an agricultural labourer, domestic servant, workshop hand or otherwise as the Director of Labour may require.

3. The working hours shall be $9\frac{1}{2}$ in each day and the rate of wages shall be 3/- per day for every whole day of the full number of working hours.

4. The labourer will, when the nature of the work permits, be employed on daily piece-work and in such case shall be entitled to a whole day's wage for each daily piece work completed, notwithstanding that he shall not have worked for the full number of working hours, and shall be free for the remainder of the day.

5. The labourer will not absent himself from his employment without the permission of the person placed in authority over him or of the Director of Labour, except in case of his sickness in which case he will report such sickness as soon as possible.

6. The labourer will be entitled to the same holidays as Chinese labourers are by law entitled to.

7. The labourer will be provided with wind and weather proof lodging.

8. The Director of Labour will take all reasonable care that the labourer is not ill treated and will investigate any complaint made by the labourer and see that justice is done.

9. The labourer will not keep cattle or horses upon the property where he is employed. Nor will he keep pigs on such property without the permission of the manager of the property. In cases where such permission is granted he will keep the pigs penned to the satisfaction of the manager otherwise the manager shall be entitled to destroy such pigs without compensation to the labourer.

10. The Director of Labour will arrange for the labourer to be able to purchase not more than 50 lbs. per month of rice of a quality approved by the Chief Medical Officer, at a cost not exceeding 3d per pound and not more than 15 lbs. of meat per month at a cost not exceeding 0d per pound.

Assented to this twenty-fifth day of

March, 1927.

[L.S.] GEO. S. RICHARDSON,

Administrator.