

where it is 30ft. high, and the current in the "Jadebusen" is deeper and swifter than at any other point. It is probable that on any invasion of Germany the dyke would be destroyed at this point, with the object of partially flooding the surrounding district at high tide. The whole

preparation the tiger killed and ate the rhino calf. There was plenty of incident before the stockade was ready and the actual drive began, for a free bull elephant forced his way in from outside, walking right in between the feres and joining the imprisoned herd. As soon as this

animal as the other bull punished him, and were kept on the alert by his frequent attempts again to force the line. However, he was held off, and was finally captured with the others—thirty-three elephants at one haul. It is interesting to note that the Mada mentioned by Sanderson in his *Wild Beasts of India* was one of his own men. Though now advanced in years Mada is, Mr Trevor-Battye testified, as keen at his work as ever he was.

BRITISH RULE IN SAMOA.*

INFORMATION about the British administration of the conquered German colonies is difficult to obtain. Few, if any, reports have been published; at any rate, very few have found their way to this country, even in some of the official quarters where one would expect them to be available. Perhaps it is thought that it will be time enough to take an official survey of the resources and problems of these conquered territories when the business of winning the war has been accomplished and men's minds are freer to give attention to new fields of enterprise. Meanwhile, some interesting sidelights are thrown on the affairs of what used to be German Samoa by the proclamations issued during the last two years in the name of Colonel Robert Logan, who commanded the New Zealand expeditionary force which occupied the islands in August, 1914, and who has since been in charge of the administration. A set of these proclamations has been added to the Library of the Royal Colonial Institute. Up to the early part of last July thirty-three of them had been issued. Almost all of them are published in both English and German, and some of them in the native language also. Many of the proclamations, naturally, are concerned with the present war situation, as affecting the position of the German settlers, the restriction of trade, etc. During the first few months of the British occupation the German bank notes in circulation, of various denominations up to 100 marks, were recognised as legal tender; but since May, 1915, business has had to be conducted in British currency only, and anyone dealing with either Samoans or Chinese in German currency renders himself liable to prosecution. It is noteworthy that when this measure was introduced, provision was made for the exchange of both German notes and German coins at the rate of 2050 marks to the £, i.e., practically their full pre-war value.

War measures, however, are not the only matters dealt with in the proclamations. In an article published in the *Field* in February, 1915, a contributor who visited Samoa just before the outbreak of war mentioned that the coconut plantations had suffered from the attentions of the rhinoceros beetle, and that the cocoa plantations were affected by disease. Both these pests have been a source of much trouble and anxiety to the German administration, and it is evident that their ravages still continue. So soon after the British occupation as December, 1914, new planting or cultivation was prohibited without written permission from the inspector appointed by the Coconut Beetle Commission, and it was laid down that as a condition precedent to the granting of such permission all dead wood likely to provide breeding places for the coconut beetle must be burned or destroyed. In August of last year it was further provided that plantation labourers must be employed during the forenoon of every Monday "exclusively in searching for and destroying coconut beetles (*Dryctes nasuticornis*) their larvae and eggs." Landowners were made personally responsible for the carrying out of this regulation, and failure to comply with it was made punishable by a fine not exceeding £50, or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months. In

*The photographs which accompany this article are selected from a numerous collection which has very courteously been sent to us by the New Zealand Government.—Ed.



SAMOA: THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICES DECORATED FOR THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

countryside consists of nothing but sand, overlaid with peat to a depth of from 3ft. to 6ft., above which are pastures, or sometimes arable land of a kind suitable only for growing rye. If this were flooded, an almost impassable morass would bar the approach of all heavy traffic to Wilhelmshaven. The fen districts begin a few miles from the "Jadebusen" and run as far as Emden, and railways and good roads from the south are only to be found at these two extremities. Owing to the yielding nature of the subsoil, the high roads are generally paved with bricks, and these would, no doubt, be torn up.

Besides all this, the German fleet would have a number of harbours of refuge. Tönning alone could accommodate a large fleet. At this place the River Eider runs into the North Sea, and is from 30ft. to 50ft. deep and very wide. There are immense shipbuilding and machinery works at Tönning, to say nothing of Zeppelin sheds. Nearer at hand to Wilhelmshaven are the mouths of the Weser and the Elbe, with their easy communications with the great shippings of Bremen and Hamburg. A little consideration of these facts will make most people sceptical of the success of any attempt to "dig out" the German Navy. J. B. W.

THE HOME OF THE GURKHA.

MR A. TREVOR-BATTYE, naturalist and traveller in many lands, gave a very interesting account of Nepal in a lecture which he delivered before the Royal Anthropological Institute on Tuesday last. Nepal is not, as a whole, a good land for agricultural operations, composed as it is in its southern third of the low-lying belt of swamps and forests known as the Terai, famous for big game, and in its northern third of high mountains and valleys, including some of the loftiest peaks in the Himalayas. The middle third, embracing that "Valley of Nepal" which alone Europeans are allowed to enter, is better adapted for farming, and there the native cultivator, with the faculty of the patient East for microscopical toil, has carried his labours to "the extreme edge of possibility," as Mr Trevor-Battye put it. The alluvial soil is much cut up by streams fed from the melting snows, and these streams are constantly changing their courses. It is no uncommon thing to see on a hill slope a field cropped to the crumbling brink of a new gully, and continued on the other side in what was, at the time of sowing, part of the same field, but has since become merged in the muddy detritus of the newly-formed stream, to the ruin of the crop on that side.

While he was in Nepal in 1913 Mr Trevor-Battye had experience of the excitements of wild elephant catching in the jungle. Until the winter of that year it had been the historic practice in Nepal to capture wild elephants by means of trained females and the chase. But under this system many died, and at the time of Mr Trevor-Battye's visit trial was being made of the Kheddah system. A guard from the Maharaja's soldiery kept a ring of three miles or so round a located herd. Fires were maintained at night at about twenty paces' interval all round. A rhinoceros and her calf were also in the inclosure, and a tiger and some sambur, but during the three days of

happened the master bull of the herd challenged and fought and defeated him; and thenceforward he was as anxious to escape as he had been to enter. Each night the watchers could hear the roaring and screaming of this



SOLOMON ISLANDERS—WHO ARE EXCELLENT WORKERS—INDENTURED TO THE DEUTSCHE HANDELS UND PLANTAGEN GESELLSCHAFT, A GERMAN COMPANY OWNING LARGE PLANTATIONS IN SAMOA, NOW IN LIQUIDATION