

TONGA.

King.—George II., born June 18, 1874 ; succeeded his great grandfather, George Tubou, in 1893.

There is a Legislative Assembly which meets every two years, composed one half of hereditary nobles, who hold their office subject to good behaviour, and half of representatives elected for three years by the people, every adult male who has paid his taxes and is not criminally incapacitated being qualified to vote.

Treaties of friendship and trade have been concluded with Great Britain, Germany, and the United States.

The kingdom consists of 3 groups of islands, called respectively, Tonga, Haapai, and Vavau, and lies between 15° and 23° 30' south, and 173° and 177° west, its western boundary being the eastern boundary of Fiji. Area, 374 square miles ; population, 1893, 17,500, including 250 foreigners, mostly British. Capital, Nukualofa. The revenue, chiefly from customs and a poll tax on natives, was, in 1892, 127,062 dollars ; expenditure, 120,051 dollars. Imports, 1895, 85,898*l.*, exports, 116,319*l.* (The trade includes transit). The imports are in the following order :—Drapery, meats, timber, breadstuffs, ironmongery, the first being three times the value of any other. The imports are from Auckland, New Zealand (60 per cent.) ; Sydney, New South Wales ; United Kingdom ; Germany ; Samoa ; America ; Melbourne. Nineteen-twentieths of the exports are copra, and the remainder mostly fruits. Tonnage entered, 1894 : 73,632 tons, of which 57,298 tons were British, 13,948 tons Norwegian, and 921 tons German.

Gold and silver coins of Great Britain, United States, and Germany are legal tender. The weights and measures are the same as in Great Britain. Accounts are kept in dollars, shillings, and pence.

H. B. M. High Commissioner and Consul-General for the Western Pacific.—

Deputy-Commissioner and Vice-Consul at Tonga.—R. B. Leefe.

Foreign Office Reports on the Trade of Tonga. Annual Series. London.
The Criminal and Civil Code of the Kingdom of Tonga. S. Auckland, 1891.
Monfat A., Les Tonga, ou Archipel des Amis. S. Lyon, 1893.