STEINBERGER'S CASE.

Letter from the Samoan Minister -to Washington---Fears that the British will take Possesion of the Islands.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce have received the following communication from Frank Platt, Minister to Washington from the Samoan Islands:

SAN FRANCISCO, April 15, 1876. Dear Sir :- I most respectfully request that you will lay before the Chamber of Commerce the following facts in relation to the Samoan Islands, feeling convinced that with their endorsement our government will take such measures as to prevent those islands being taken possession of by the British government. These islands are the central point of the Polynesian group, and are the only islands in the South Pacific that possess good and secure harbors; one at Panga Panga, on the Island of Tutulia; the other at Apia, on the Island of Upolu. The group is in almost a straight line from New Zealand to San Francisco. A line of steamers is now projecting to run from Sydney via Bay of Islands, New Zealand, to San Francisco, proposing to make the Samoan Islands the central point of connection with the Polynesian group, taking in the Fijis, New Caladonia and Tahiti. They are situated about half way from New Zealand and the Sandwich Islands, thus dividing the voyage between San Francisco and Sydney into nearly four equal parts, namely; first, Sydney to Bay of Islands; second, Bay of Islands to Samoa; third, Samoa to Sandwich L-lands ; fourth, Sandwich Islands to San Francisco. If Samoa should not be made a calling point, it will leave a stretch of 3,800 miles, a distance too great for the coal carrying capacity of the steamer.

THE POLICY OF THE BRITISH GOVERN-MENT.

A pamphlet written a short time since, for private distribution, by an eminera statesman in the colonies, foreshadowed the policy of the British government in the South Seas. Their design is to take possession of all the islands in the South Pacific that are now under foreign protection, and to control the trade of the Polynesian group. The harbors of the Fijis, are not safe, hurricanes being of frequent occurrence; therefore they have determined to take possession of the Samoan Islands for their secure harbors; and from the fact of their being the central point of the Polynesian group they do not want any other foreign government to have control of them. Mr. Steinberger was sent to Samoa by our government as a special agent, to report upon the condition of the group. He returned and wrote an elaborate report, which was printed by the government. On his return, he carried with him a letter from the chief rulers of Samoa to the President, asking that he be sent back to assist them in organizing a government. Mr. Steinberger returned to Samoa, taking with him arms and ammunition as presents from the Government of the United States to the Samoan government, and set at work organizing a government.

HE WAS APPOINTED PREMIER, And succeeded after great labor in organizing a stable government, which was in successful operation until the interference of the English. The natives are unanimous in their opposition to the English, and beg that the United States will protect them from their aggressions. Unless our Government takes some action in this matter, we will lose the last opportunity of obtaining a foothold in the South Pacific for American commerce, and directing the valuable trade of this region to San Francisco. I therefore beg that your honorable body will recommend an investigation into this British outrage, and, if nothing else can be done, warn the British to keep hands off.

I have the honor to be, your obedient FRANK PLATT, Minister to Washington from Samoa. To Isaac Friedlander, President Saa

Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

O.F.BELL. ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,

Notary Public and Commissioner of For California and Washington

Territory.

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FRESH SUPPLY OF DOWNER'S & Pratts Astral Coal Oil. These oils are perfectly safe and produce a magnificent light. For sale by 1. W. CASE

WM. EDGAR,

Corner Main and Chenamus Streets, ASTORIAOREGO DEALER IN THE CHOICEST BRANDS OF

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Fairchilds Gold Pens. And all sorts of STATIONERY, NOTIONS ETC. Drifts and Tow Heads 1876.

Upper Astoria, Clatsop county, Oregon. } April 24, 1876. } At a Special meeting of the Columbia River Fishermens Beneficial Aid Society, the fellowing regulations for the government of all concerned were adopted. That the following drifts and tow heads be established for the fishing season of 1876. First Drift. From Woody Island

to Brown's point.

Second Drift. From Brown's Point inside of Snag Island to the 12th red

Third Drift. From the 15th buoy to Tongue Point.

Fourth Drift. From Tongue Point to a point a little west of Booth's Cannery, at a place to be designated by a spile or some permanent mark. Fifth Drift. From the termina-tion of the 4th drift to Smith's Point. Sixth Drift. From Smith's Point to the Pacific Ocean.

Seventh Drift. From the red buoy in the Prairie channel to Tongue Point up or down.

Eighth Drift. The big snag in Chinook shoot will be considered a tow head.

The fishermen in Astoria, in council have mutually agreed to bind themselves to be governed by the foregoing drifts, and it is expected from boats outside of the Society that they will also conform to the same.

Any fisherman who is not fortunate enough to be a member of this Society has still another opportunity to join this Society, by applying before the 10th day of May, 1876, in accordance with the notice published elsewhere in the ASTORIAN. After which time the initiation fees will be raised to twenty-five dollars.

By order of the Society, THOMAS DEALEY, Sec.

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General Merchandise, FARMERS WHARF,

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F. J. TAYLOR.

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

Room No. 5, Brown's Building.

VAN DUSEN.

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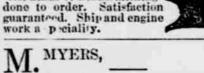
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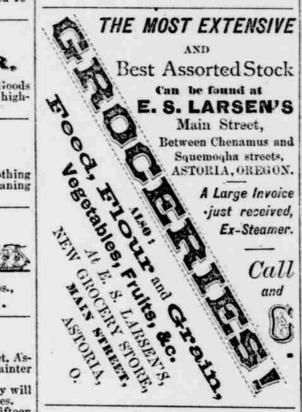
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