

APPENDIX No. 15.

THE RAID ON FANNING ISLAND BY THE *NÜRNBERG*.

In the morning of the 7th of September residents at the cable station on Fanning Island saw two vessels coming up over the horizon. As they approached it was seen that both flew the French flag, and preparations were made to launch a boat and guide them to the regular anchorage. Meanwhile the operator on duty reported to his next neighbour at Suva, "I can see a three-funnelled cruiser in the distance," and then "She is coming nearer, flying the French flag."

Just as the boat was launched, two boats put off hurriedly from the strange cruiser, came shoreward at full speed, and landed a body of German officers and marines. The residents in sight were captured; a Maxim gun was trained on the cable station, which was then entered and most of the instruments in the operating room smashed; the shore end of the cable was dynamited, and further out to sea the cable was dredged for, secured, and cut. Then the engine-room, the lighting and refrigerating plant, and the dynamo-room were blown up with gun-cotton. Last of all the office was ransacked, and papers carried off for perusal.

It was unfortunate that no one at the office thought of destroying these papers before they were captured; for they revealed that several valuable instruments and a quantity of arms and ammunition were buried on the island. These were now discovered and destroyed. While £750 was taken from the office safe. No private property was touched. The whole raid took about twelve hours.¹

The collier is described as "of the Three Islands type, about 2,200 tons."

The population of Fanning Island was then 26 white men, 4 white women, and about 200 natives.

(Summarised from a Honolulu paper of 3rd October, 1914.)

¹ The German official narrative (*Der Kreuzerrieg, Vol. I, p. 129*) does not materially differ, except that the two signals sent out by the wireless operator are given as follows: "Suspicious ship in sight," and "Suspicious ship is French cruiser, I am going on board." The sum taken is said to have been £720 2s. 6d. The *Titania*, which had a cable-cutting apparatus, was responsible for that part of the work.