

FISHER HEARING

(Continued from Page 2)

advances made by the Territorial of Federal government.

Secretary Fisher's queries then turned to the relative danger of Japanese owning land or Japanese not owning land, and Mr. Ashford expressed the belief that Japanese land owners would be the least dangerous.

Following this, ex-Governor Carter was asked to give his ideas on the subject.

Following is the morning hearing in detail:

Secretary Fisher: Mr. Ashford, I am very glad to see that you are able to be here this morning; and sorry you were not able to be with us Saturday. I do not know whether you have been supplied with a copy of the stenographic report of the proceedings Saturday morning or not?

Mr. Ashford: I have seen the newspaper reports.

Mr. Fisher: Well, they give the substance of what occurred, I think.

It has seemed desirable to me at the outset to ascertain what really ought to be accomplished or ought to be attempted to be accomplished by any Governor so that we might have some of the charges filed by the Delegate, and for that reason I have been asking some questions of the men whom I thought would represent one or another view of importance, or one or another interest of importance. I think perhaps if you or the Delegate either are willing to do so, that it would be a little helpful to us if we could get your views at the outset of what can be accomplished and what should be accomplished by the chief executive of these islands, particularly, of course, with reference to the two questions that are principally raised in the protest of the Delegate filed with me, namely, the question of the disposition of the public lands, their development and use; and the question of the development and control of the transportation facilities upon which the use of these lands largely depends. I would like, therefore, if you are ready at this time, to have you tell us what you think should be the main purpose or character of the homestead law, or of any other method of disposing of the lands which belong to the public here and are under the jurisdiction of the Governor or his appointees, and which will come under his jurisdiction and control as the lesses now in effect expire from time to time.

Mr. Olson—Mr. Secretary, I would suggest that the name of Mr. C. R. Hemenway and myself be entered as counsel for the Governor, and the name of Mr. C. W. Ashford as counsel for the Delegate.

Secretary Fisher: These names, Mr. C. R. Hemenway and Mr. C. W. Ashford, will be entered as counsel for the Governor and Mr. Ashford for the Delegate.

Mr. Ashford: It is a great pleasure to the Delegate, as well as to the community at large, I believe, to greet and welcome you to Hawaii upon this mission of investigation. The Delegate felt that the complaints against the administration of Governor Frear were of sufficient magnitude to command an investigation of the kind you have come here to make, and which we believe it is your full intent and purpose to make. There will be nothing but open-handedness on our part. We quite fully believe that certain abuses have crept into the administration of public lands and the office of the Governor in other respects, and we believe that the conditions prevailing in Hawaii, and in all of which the Governor is represented, are such as to call for drastic reform.

Coming to the first of these two special causes for complaint on the part of the Delegate, namely, the administration of the public lands, he

authorizes me to say this at the beginning: that when he found himself here on Saturday unrepresented by his counsel, and with the Governor represented by very astute and able counsel, he felt that it would be better for him to reserve the expression of his opinions or views until his counsel was present. He has now delegated me to make such statements as he feels called upon by your suggestions and requests.

Embarrassed by Counsel.

The Delegate authorized me to say that he felt especially embarrassed on Saturday in view of the array, ability and professional relations of the counsel by whom we are opposed, it being remembered that there are two general points in his complaint, namely, the administration of the land laws, and, second, the transportation excesses and abuses which have prevailed in these islands for so long; and when he found himself opposed on the one hand by a member of the firm of Holmes, Stanley & Olson, representatives of the planting interests generally, and particularly of T. H. Davies & Co., Ltd., and taking into consideration the further point that T. H. Davies & Co., Ltd., are the representatives of the Waialakea Mill Company, which is endeavoring to obtain extended rights in Waialakea; and taking further into consideration the fact that Mr. Hemenway comes from the very able firm of Smith, Warren & Hemenway, who have been in years past and now are attorneys for the inter-island S. N. Co., whose actions form the second basis for our complaint, he felt embarrassed to a degree where he thought it the part of wisdom not to make a statement on his own account, but to leave it to his counsel.

I find myself, Mr. Secretary, not quite as robust physically as I thought I would be this morning, and if you are willing I will take a chair where I can sit down.

Mr. Fisher: It will be quite satisfactory, Mr. Ashford, and if at any time you feel that you have overtaxed your strength, don't hesitate to say so.

Ashford: Thank you.

Fisher: We expect to have several of these hearings, and it would be better to have you in good condition than to overdo it at this time.

Conditions Different.

Ashford: The matter of the disposition of the public lands is a matter which has vexed the people, the executive, the legislators, boards and others in this community for many years. The conditions have been very different here than they are anywhere else. The Governor found himself, after the annexation of Hawaii, with a vastly increased domain. But with the addition of the crown lands that domain was very greatly increased until now, according to the figures of the Governor, there are 35,000 acres of cane land and some quarter of a million of acres of public lands generally available, some of which are other than cane lands, some good, some bad and some indifferent.

Governor Explains.

Fisher: Now just a moment, Mr. Ashford. Governor, are these 35,000 acres of land to which you refer, all the lands belonging to the public that are suitable for the cultivation of cane, so far as is now known—I mean irrespective of the length of time for which they are leased? What is the total amount of land available for cane raising that belong to the public?

Governor: Additional lands are being continually opened up, both in large and small areas; that is, the area of cane cultivated land is being gradually increased. 35,000 acres is all that has been found profitable to put into cane; and I think the extension of the areas of cultivated land has proceeded as fast as it has been able to extend it.

Fisher: Are these lands under long lease?

Governor: Yes.

Fisher: Those leases are falling due from time to time? And does the 35,000 acres include these lands under lease?

Governor: They do; the 35,000 acres include all the available cane lands.

Ashford—With the development and application of water, which we understand to be available in the Waimea stream on Kauai, a vast area, many thousands acres, in addition to what has already been brought into cultivation of cane, may be brought under cultivation. That is a principal point in itself—that Ahaupua of Kekaha. A great deal of it (but comparatively only a small part as compared with the entire area) is under cultivation and is being irrigated by water that is the property of the Territory. A great deal more is susceptible of similar cultivation if water is laid out upon it.

Hadn't Real Report.

Fisher asked Ashford if he had read the report of Dole in that connection. Ashford answered that he regretted very much that he had not.

Ashford: However, that is a detail, and suppose we consider that there are 35,000 acres of land available, the question is raised of what to do with it. It was expressed by Mr. Swanzey, the head of the Planters' Association, here on Saturday morning, if the newspaper reports are correct, that it favors a system of rental, and his reason given was that the Territory may have a revenue from that source. We consider, however, that this is a poor economic policy; that the better policy is for the Territory to pass out a title to this land to citizens desiring the land. It is our belief that lands so disposed of, even though it be given for nothing (and there is no prospect that this land will be given for nothing to the farmer), still it would yield the community greater advantages and greater revenues than holding it for "rack-renting." It is our belief, further, that owing to the conditions which have been developed under the policy which has been pursued in the past, we should take warning against its perpetuation; and the laws should be so amended as to absolutely forbid the further renting of these lands to corporations or persons owning any considerable areas of land, and might very well vary with the quality of the land.

Would Remove Temptation.

That would absolutely remove from the corporation all temptation to maneuver for the renewal of old leases, or getting new leases. It would put them immediately into cooperation with the homesteading principle whereby they would see the necessity of aiding and assisting the homesteaders, among whom the lands should be divided in order that those lands—assuming that they are cane lands—could be cultivated to the highest extent of which they are capable; and that the planters transform their plantations into manufacturing of sugar.

I do not mean by that that the Governor could make a hard and fast rule or scale of prices at which the manufacturers or the factory men should take the cane of planters or homesteaders and manufacture it, but I do mean that the lands would then be in the hands of the homesteaders, and that those factories already built would take the cane, or refusing to do so, other capital would be invited into the field and would supply the necessary machinery or factories to do the work. That would utterly eliminate one of the most vexing questions that has prevailed in this country for a good many years.

Americans Needed.

We should have a greater American element and American sentiment here. We are not an American community in any sense except in the sense that we are a possession of the United States and governed from Washington. The vast majority of our people are alien to the soil itself; even the American counted in with the native Hawaiians do not begin, as I believe, to make up a majority of the people here. Consequently, the majority has been gleaned from elsewhere—and chiefly from the Orient. Now the

Oriental branches that are represented here are three, namely, the Japanese, Chinese and Filipinos (or that several elements of that considerable mixture which generally passes under the name of Filipinos). The Chinese have been industrious and thrifty to a very high degree. It was found years ago desirable, or thought to be desirable, to suspend and prohibit the further immigration of Chinese, and it was done. That having been done, further cheap labor—the Japanese—was invited here and assisted here. And finally the flood became so great as to become alarming.

After annexation the further influx of the Japanese was prohibited, but not until their numbers had vastly outnumbered any other race or element we now have here. They are multiplying with remarkable rapidity; and the school statistics of today will show that whereas there are in the public schools of Hawaii only between 4000 and 5000 English-speaking children (American and other Anglo-Saxons), there are something over 6500 Orientals. Now these Orientals are growing up they have the rights of citizenship.

Will Control Ballot.

In a few years they will make a vast impression on the ballot here and there will not be sufficient of other races to offset them. This is a dangerous condition for a so-called American community, and I believe that we all agree, at least theoretically, that there should be further and more rapid Americanization in Hawaii. The planting interests, I think, however, are not agreed upon it. It is apparently not to their immediate profit. All business, it is said, is selfish; and some business is more so. Planting interests might be well classified in the latter list.

Reason for Americanization.

Now there are certainly many of us here who do believe that further and rapid Americanization of these islands should be brought about for many reasons—the sentimental reason being that an American community should be peopled by Americans, with the idea that American land should be disposed of to Americans. This does not necessarily mean men who are born in America and come here from the mainland, but who are citizens of America or have the right to become so; and again I would draw a distinction; that is to say, that I would not favor the opinions expressed by Mr. Swanzey on Saturday, of a project which would divide these lands among any one particular element of American citizens or prospective American citizens.

No one should be singled out and provided with land at the expense of the other; but all have an equal chance to the extent of their desire, facilities and means. It would hardly be called an Americanization of this country if we should divide up the public lands among the Portuguese on the plantations, or within the towns of the country.

Under conditions now existing and expected to exist for many years to come, that a population of Americans should be planted here, if it can be done without too great a sacrifice. If danger should threaten this outpost of the Union it seems to me that it would be to that class of people that we might most reasonably hope to look for assistance, in repelling the danger, and more particularly with a class of that kind we would not be required to keep on guard such a large force of military as is now kept here. This policing of these islands with such a large force of military was made necessary not in the presence here of the Anglo-Saxon, but largely because of the presence here of Orientals; and while I do not desire to raise the question of Orientalism, at the same time anybody regarding the situation calmly and impartially must be able to see that there is a greater element of danger here with the majority of people composed of Orientals than if the majority was composed of Americans. This is not a bad time or place to put into application that mandate attributed to George Washington in a time of great danger "Put none but Americans on guard tonight."

There was an objection made by Mr. Swanzey upon the stand, or rather made by Mr. Swanzey in his talk, to the division of these lands among homesteaders owing to the necessity of irrigation in parts of the Territory, he stating that it would be impracticable for private owners on small areas to get along and make a success of it. Let us assume that it is a fact that there are irrigation facilities either developed or undeveloped, now we can see no reason why these irrigation facilities should not be placed at the disposal of citizens or small owners, as well as at the disposal of the corporation owners; in other words, if the water and land are there, even though the land be divided into comparatively small areas, why could the water not be extended to the small areas, whether or not small owners are able or not to finance the schemes.

There are large areas in the Territory that do not require artificial irrigation. There, of course, the objection of Mr. Swanzey could have no effect. Let us take, for instance, that great domain of Waialakea near Hilo, where his company is endeavoring to obtain further and extended rights.

Fisher: Approximately how many acres are there in this section which you term "Great domain"?

Ashford: Possibly 7,000 acres.

Governor Frear: About 6,000 acres are in cane; but the lease covers about 36,000 acres, most of which is in the forest and not cultivated.

Ashford: Assuming that there are only 6,000 acres of that domain which are available for cane culture, still it is naturally irrigated and if you should happen to be there in the wet season some time, you would very thoroughly understand the natural irrigation in the district of Hilo.

If it were absolutely withdrawn and should be taken out and assigned to homesteaders, and if the Waialakea Mill Company still desires possession they must confine themselves to manufacturing only and co-operate with the holders of the land if they de-

sire to grind. If that were done by timely announcement, it strikes me that there would be an amplitude of applicants.

When we come to the question of areas to be allotted to homesteaders, there has been a great deal of friction between the Executive and others concerning the smallness of the area in general as one of the points of the Delegate's complaint against the administration of Governor Frear.

Fisher: What do you think should be the area allotted to homesteaders?

Ashford: My idea is that there should be not less than 40 acres apiece, that is, 40 acres of cane land. I do not sympathize with the idea that only a sufficient area be allotted for cultivation by the head of the family himself, or such of his boys and girls who can get into the field with hoes. That is not American farming. American farming consists in working from 40 to several hundred acres, usually not less than a quarter section (160 acres), and from that up; and working the family only; and sometimes with the help of hired servants. I do not see any objection to the hiring of servants in this country any more than in any other country. I do not consider that it is necessary that a corporation should be formed; but neither do I see why an American citizen should not have the same right to hire Oriental labor to do the hoeing for him as a corporation has; and of course there is no reason. They seem to imagine that the right of hiring labor should be confined to the sugar holding or other commercial corporations. There is no logic in that. When I name 40 acres as the number to be allotted to the homesteader, it is only a tentative guess as might be said.

(For lack of space, the remainder of Mr. Ashford's statement this morning cannot be given in today's issue, but as it contains a presentation of the Delegate's attitude, it will be published tomorrow.

Carter Called On.

Mr. Fisher: I think perhaps we had better take advantage of the period here—I have the names of one or two gentlemen who are going away tomorrow—Mr. Carter, especially, I would be glad to have any expression from you on this general subject that we are now discussing.

Mr. Carter—Mr. Secretary, as I catch the drift of your discussion—what you expect of me is to give to you the benefit of my experience—not only for the office you hold, but for the benefit of the citizens of Hawaii—that I am asked to come here to speak to you on these questions—to enlighten you. I want to say that I have no personal animosity for either of the so-called contestants, that I do not appear as an attorney with a brief—it was some time before this controversy reached Washington that I told Governor Frear he could not expect my support for reappointment he had failed to secure the support of the administration in Washington. And I believed that having failed that, that he could make no headway against the encouragement which his opponents had received.

Mr. Fisher: If there has been any failure to secure the support of the administration in Washington, I am absolutely unaware of that.

Mr. Carter: I am quite aware of that.

Mr. Fisher: There has been no intimation, either direct or indirect that the administration has not been entirely satisfactory with Governor Frear's administration and does not intend to reappoint him.

Mr. Carter: I want to say that if you have not any information I want to give it to you. If you want details and specific instances, I shall be glad to give it to you. I state it now because I consider that much of this controversy has arisen over that fact. As early as December, I am on record as having sent a cable to President Taft urging a change and making a specific suggestion as to a successor.

Mr. Fisher: The investigation is due to the fact that the Delegate has protested to the reappointment and solely for that.

Mr. Carter: And wasn't the Delegate dissatisfied by the fact that the Governor had no support in Washington? I will put it in a little different way. The two factions here contending before you today—if they thought they could reach the ear of the authority behind you by undermining you or going around you, do you think that you would receive the consideration that you are now receiving?

Mr. Fisher: Well, I don't know—that depends on conditions here, and I am not well enough acquainted to say—I am disposed to look into this question absolutely on its merits.

Mr. Carter: The point I want to make is that in my opinion the opportunity of healing the trouble has gone by.

Mr. Fisher: I contend that if there is a real trouble and it ought to be solved it may be that a surgical operation is necessary and the healing process won't begin until the operation is performed. That is one reason why I am inquiring at the outset about fundamental questions rather than bothering about the question of whether or not the Governor did or did not act in a certain homestead case. I think it is more important to get the facts as to what the fundamental conditions in this Territory are.

Mr. Carter: It is in my opinion—the position of the Governor in person—he is held responsible for the administration here by the President, but on the other hand how can the administration expect to hold any man put in charge here if it ignores his recommendations and pays no attention to his suggestions. If the subordinates in your department when you made a suggestion—

Mr. Fisher: If my suggestions were not given consideration I certainly would not feel that I was being considered. I entirely fail to see the drift of your remarks. What we are trying to get at here is the administration of the public domain and that is what the Delegate says is the matter with the Governor. I do not understand that the Federal administration has anything to do with either of these questions.

Mr. Carter: If you cannot catch

the drift of my remarks in that respect I will put it another way. Much of this controversy has arisen from the fact from the encouragement that the opponents of Governor Frear have received. The land question is no new one—I have seen three administrations try to handle the matter. It comes from the confusion of ideas as to the policy of ideas to use—and it comes from the confusion of the standard of success that is to be gained or aimed at. I do not believe our conditions here are identical with the mainland. We have confined in a narrow area every sort of condition that you have on the mainland from the desert lands of the west to the swamp lands of Florida.

(For remainder of Carter's statement see tomorrow's issue.)

REASON FOR WITHHOLDING NAMES OF WITNESSES

Many are professing to see mystery in Secretary Fisher's refusal to make public the names of the twenty-odd witnesses to whom he sent out his formal written requests for attendance last Friday. They are unable to understand why he does not care to have the names known to everyone.

Mr. Fisher's private secretary, Herbert A. Meyer, explained Saturday that these are withheld because the Secretary does not want others, who did not receive these formal notices, to feel that they have been overlooked or slighted intentionally. As a matter of fact, it is understood the names Mr. Fisher holds have been submitted to him by Governor Frear and Private Kublo, and Mr. Fisher made it plain, at the beginning of the first day's hearing, that he will gladly receive any and all such evidence pertinent to the subject of the inquiry, no matter from whom they may come.

He makes just two stipulations, they must be pertinent to the matter in hand, with a direct bearing on some phase of the real questions at issue, and those bringing them must be willing to leave it entirely to Mr. Fisher's discretion as to whether or not names and the nature of their information shall be made public.

Some are inclined to believe however, that the twenty or more who have been formally requested to at-

tend the inquiry, will later be called in as a committee to assist the Secretary, at the end of the hearing, in arriving at a final definite conclusion, on which Mr. Fisher's recommendation to President Taft may be based. It is believed that virtually an equal number have been summoned from the list of names supplied by the Governor and by the Delegate. All are thought to be men best acquainted with commercial, industrial and political conditions in the Territory.

This however, may prove merely idle speculation. It has not been confirmed or even hinted by any of the parties actively interested.

One of the principal features of Attorney Ashford's talk this morning was his reply to the irrigation question propounded Saturday by Mr. Swanzey. The latter had made the theory of homesteading might be all right, provided however, the small farmer could obtain irrigation. This, Swanzey had declared, would likely prove impracticable because the expense would be greater than the small farmer could bear, and because the small owner could not possess the water sources, thus being compelled largely to depend on the good will of the few men who naturally would control the sources.

Ashford's reply this morning was that the government could possess these water sources and could undertake the expensive job of conserving the water, just as it has done in so many cases in the states, establishing a system that would give the government far more revenue than the irrigated lands than it is getting under the present leasing, or rental system.

POLLITZ IS SNATCHED FROM DEATH'S DOOR

Edward Pollitz, head of the well-known firm bearing his name which is largely interested in Hawaiian sugar plantations, has been extremely ill in San Francisco. He nearly had blood-poisoning from the excision of a corn. R. W. Shingle received a cablegram this morning, which says Mr. Pollitz is a little better but his recovery will be very slow.



CLOTHING TALK

THE Gotham Clothiers can extend you no more clever styles or fabrics than we. And this is due to our ability to control the agency in this city for the

"ALFRED BENJAMIN" CLOTHES

"BENJAMIN'S" clothes not only exceed all other ready-to-wear clothes in style and quality, but they

COST LITTLE MORE THAN THE ORDINARY KIND

THE CLARION

Cor. Fort and Hotel Sts.

Hats for Fall



Stetson Make

Have no equal for wearing quality or style features.

Flexible, and can be shaped to suit fancy of the wearer.

M. M'INERNEY, Ltd.,
FORT and MERCHANT STREETS

SECTY. FISHER OPENS INVESTIGATION, NAVY DRYDOCK TO BE EXTENDED, HOOKWORM VICTIMS MAY BE BARRED, LEILEHUA SOLDIER ACCIDENTALLY KILLED, CONGRESS PROVIDES FOR LOCAL EXPERIMENT STATION, HARTWELL PORTRAIT FOR UNIVERSITY CLUB, PALAMA DISPENSARY NEAR COMPLETION, QUARANTINE OFFICERS HESITATE TO FUMIGATE OIL-TANKER,

Are titles of news items that appeared in this paper SATURDAY—forty-eight hours ago—and were given to the public while they were news.